



Ministry
of Defence

**Analysis (Tri-Service)
Ministry Of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom**

Telephone [MOD]: **+44 (0)20 7807 8896**
Facsimile [MOD]: **+44 (0)20 7218 0969**
E-mail: Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk

Reference: **FOI2023/06396**

[Redacted]

Date: **9th June 2023**

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Defence on 22/05/2023 requesting the following information:

I would like to know the exact numbers of active military personnel in Northern Ireland.

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have now completed a search for the information you requested, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held.

Number of UK Regulars² and FR20^{1,3} Personnel Stationed in Northern Ireland^{4,5} as at 1 January 2023:

	01 January 2023
Total	3,520
Regulars	1,610
FR20	1,910

Source: Analysis Tri-Service

Footnotes

1. Figures containing Future Reserves 2020 (FR20) personnel are estimates because the stationed location data for FR20 Reserves has not been fully verified.
2. UK Regulars comprise full time service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) personnel, Gurkhas, Mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), High Readiness Reserve (HRR) and Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) personnel. Includes both trained and untrained personnel.
3. FR20 includes Volunteer Reserves who are mobilised, High Readiness Reserve and volunteer reserve personnel serving on Additional Duties Commitment (ADC) or FTRS contracts. Sponsored Reserves who provide a more cost effective solution than volunteer reserve are also included in the Army Reserve FR20. Non Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS), Expeditionary Forces Institute (EFI) and University Officer Cadets and Regular Reservists are excluded. Includes both Trained and Untrained Personnel.

4. The figures are based on Service personnel's stationed location and not their location of residence - where personnel work isn't necessarily where they live. Personnel deployed on operations to an area away from their stationed location are shown against their most recent stationed location. The Royal Navy/Royal Marines personnel on sea service are included against the local authority containing the home port of their ship.

5. Country as recorded in Joint Personnel Administration (JPA).

6. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 to prevent inadvertent disclosure. However, numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise, this exercise involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against the legitimate interests in disclosure, this is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions in FOIA. The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the absolute exemption in section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interests test, as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise lay in withholding the third-party personal data identified in the attached information.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Military Personnel** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing Analysis-Tri-Service@mod.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Analysis (Tri-Service)