



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

Secretariat
Room 6229
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2023/13095

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

28 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 5 October 2023 requesting the following information:

"I would like to make a FOI request with respect to Service Families Accommodation and the demographics of the user community.

Request 1: How many quarters of each type and grade are in the Defence Estate?

By family size (number of entitled dependent children), how many Service Families are there, how many of those families are entitled to Service Families Accommodation?

How many Type 1 and 2 quarters are not tied to an appointment?"

Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) provided you with a reply on 25 October 2023 under the reference FOI2023/11975 and on 30 October 2023, you asked for the following information:

"Please could you provide some clarity on my second question:

Q2. By family size (number of entitled dependent children), how many Service Families are there, how many of those families are entitled to Service Families Accommodation?

You have answered:

A2. As of 1 October 2023, there are 38,506 Service Families living in Service Family Accommodation (SFA). Due to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), we do not break down this data to determine the number of Service Families living in SFA by family size/number of entitled dependent children.

Please could you confirm who the 'we' refers to in this answer. Surely Defence is aware how many SP are married and how many children they have. This should be routine information held on any HR system especially in an organisation that requires

this information to be known to confirm entitlements and pay allowances such as LOA.

In addition to Q2 may I amend the wording to include rank.

Amended Q2: By Rank, then family size (number of entitled dependent children), how many Service Families are there?"

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

Firstly, I should explain that as information in scope of your request is held on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System, which is administered by Defence Business Services, your request has been passed to our office to reply. However, we are only able to supply the NATO rank of the person holding the Service Family Accommodation (SFA). Due to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), the MOD does not break down this data to determine the number of service families living in SFA by family size/number of entitled dependent children.

Please find at Annex A a list of current active personnel in the Royal Navy, Army and RAF that have an occupied SFA recorded on JPA by NATO rank, as of 17 November 2023.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) it may be helpful if I explain that the figure of 38,506 provided was sourced from the DIO accommodation team from their database. The figures provided in Annex A have been taken from JPA and there is a slight difference in the total (36,698). Furthermore, in answer to "Please could you confirm who the 'we' refers to in this answer", I can confirm that 'we' refers to the DIO.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

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 at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



Defence Business Services (Secretariat)

Current active personnel in the Royal Navy, Army and RAF that have an occupied Service Family Accommodation (SFA) recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System by NATO rank, as of 17 November 2023

NATO Rank	Count of Service Personnel
OF9	3
OF8	8
OF7	37
OF6	110
OF5	354
OF4	1268
OF3	2911
OF2	2804
OF1	291
OR9	736
OR8	1585
OR7	3512
OR6	6039
OR4	8158
OR3	3954
OR2	4928