



Ministry of Defence

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[Redacted]

September 2023

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 1 September in which you requested the following information:

1. *Strength of British Army and serving Nepalese citizens as at 31 Jul 23 (Regulars only)?*
2. *How many serving Nepalese citizens are registered to vote as at 31 Jul 23:*
 - a. *in UK*
 - b. *in Nepal*
3. *What is the current MOD policy on voting rights for Nepalese citizens serving in the British Army?*
4. *Where and how often is this policy published? Are these communicated via Routine Orders?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of part one of your request is held and is provided below. No information in scope of parts two to four of your request is held.

Army Trade Trained Regulars and Gurkhas as at 1 July 2023.

Population	Trade Trained Personnel
Regulars	70,192
<i>of which Nepalese</i>	<i>601</i>
Gurkhas	3,792

Source: Analysis (Army)

1. The figures in the table above are for the Trade Trained Regular Army & Gurkhas and therefore exclude Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, Army Reserve and all other Reserves, but includes those personnel that have transferred from the Gurkhas to the Regular Army.
2. All Gurkha personnel are Nepalese.
3. Nationality in the above table is that which is currently recorded on the Joint Administration Personnel system (JPA) and not necessarily the same as at birth or when recruited.

4. Nepalese personnel have the option to change their Nationality to British upon transferring population from Gurkha to Regular. These personnel are therefore not included in the "of which Nepalese" figures above.
5. Personnel with a Secondary Nationality of Nepalese on JPA have not been included in the "of which Nepalese" figures above.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that information on voting in the UK is available at to following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote>

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

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

Pers Team Leader B
Army Policy and Secretariat