



Ministry of Defence

UK Tri-Service Families Continuous Attitude Survey Results 2024

● Annual

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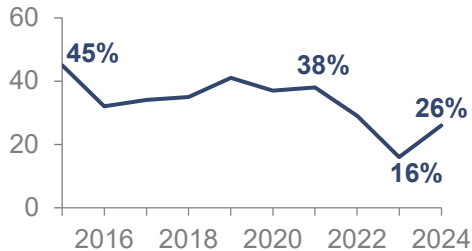
United Kingdom

This statistical release provides results from the Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FamCAS) 2024, along with results from previous years.

Statistics from FamCAS are used by both internal Ministry of Defence (MOD) teams and external bodies to inform the development of policy and measure the impact of decisions affecting personnel and their families.

Satisfaction with Service Family Accommodation

% Satisfied with response to requests for maintenance/repair work of SFA/Substitute SFA

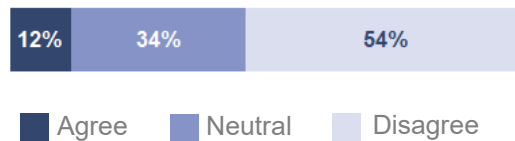


Following large decreases in 2023, satisfaction with aspects of maintenance/repair work has improved this year.

However, satisfaction remains below levels reported in 2021, and nearly six in ten are dissatisfied.

Service communication with families

% Agree/disagree policies aimed at families are communicated to them effectively by the Services

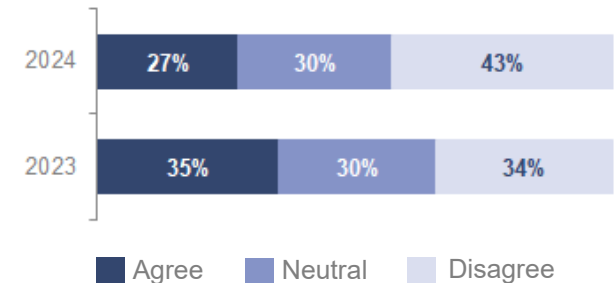


Nearly half of families (49%) report they do not currently receive any communication.

When asked how they would prefer the Service to communicate with them, email was the most preferred option, selected by 64% of families as their first or second choice.

Officer families feel less positive this year

% Officer spouses agree/disagree my family benefits from being a Service family



Officer families are also less satisfied, and more dissatisfied, with their quality of life as a Service family, compared to last year.

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Background quality report: www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index

Would you like to be added to our **contact list** so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing Analysis-Publications@mod.gov.uk

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About these statistics

The Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FamCAS) refers to a set of harmonised Tri-Service questions included within the annual single Service Families Attitude Surveys.



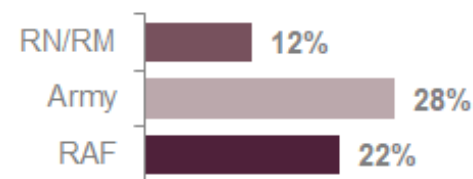
The FamCAS is one of the main ways that the department gathers information on the attitudes and experiences of Service families.

The 2024 FamCAS was distributed to a sample of 29,139 trained Regular Service personnel who were married or in a civil partnership. The Serving person was then asked to pass the survey on to their spouse. The survey is now completely online after the Army moved to online only this year. The RN/RM has been online only since 2020, the RAF moved to online only in 2023. The survey was open from 7th February until 22nd April 2024.

Response rates:

Overall 6,046 valid responses were received, representing a response rate of 21%.

This is an increase from the 2023 response rate of 18%. This year, response rates are back in line with those achieved between 2017 and 2021, which fluctuated between 20% and 25%.



RN/RM managed to match their response rates from last year whilst Army and RAF both increased response rates (by eight and two percentage points respectively).

The Army moved to an online only survey this year, as such the proportion of Army personnel in the sample was increased. This transition was well managed by the Army, the overall response rate improved and results were unaffected by this change.

The large number of responses to this survey allows robust inferences to be made. Measures of precision for all results are provided in the reference tables.

Impact of COVID-19

FamCAS 2021 captured experiences during lockdowns and restrictions. Several areas of improvement were reported in 2021 including the effect of Service life on their children and their relationship with their partner and household income. However, since then, many of the changes reported in these areas have reverted back to the levels reported in 2020. This may be somewhat reflective of families re-evaluating following the lifting of restrictions, as attitudes towards some areas of Service life shift back to pre-COVID levels.

Impact of the Modernised Accommodation Offer (MAO) announcement

Whilst FamCAS 2024 was in field, the [Modernised Accommodation Offer](#), due to commence from 11 March 2024, was advertised to Service personnel and their families. However, in response to feedback and concerns raised following these communications, changes to family accommodation entitlements were paused in February 2024 to enable a further review to take place. This may have influenced some responses to the FamCAS 2024 survey.

About this statistical release

Throughout this report “married” refers to those who are married or in a civil partnership and “spouse” refers to spouse/civil partner.

AFCAS 2024 comparisons:

Many of these comparisons are based on a subset of the [Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey](#) results (AFCAS) for Service personnel who are married/in a civil partnership. As a result they will not always match published AFCAS results.

National comparisons:

National figures are used to provide context wherever possible. However, these are rarely directly comparable due to demographic differences between the general population and the population of Service spouses.

Reference tables and a list of FamCAS questions are published as separate documents and can be found on the [FamCAS](#) webpage.

Please also see the Background Quality Report at the webpage above for full details of survey methodology, analysis and data quality considerations.

Only differences that are statistically significant are commented on within this report; statistical tests were carried out at the 99% confidence level. This is at a fairly stringent level and means that there should be a less than 1% chance that differences observed in FamCAS results are not representative of Service families as a whole. This reduces the likelihood of wrongly concluding that there has been an actual change based on survey results, which only cover a sample of Service families.

Section 1 - About you

Section 1 provides background demographics of Service spouses and their families as well as information about how often they move and the amount of separation they experience.

Data Quality Note

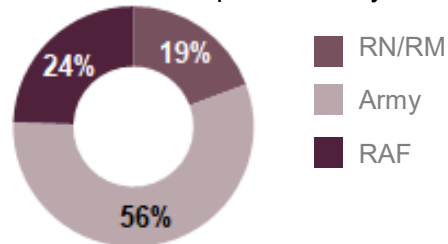
The estimates provided below are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA)¹. The estimate of married Service personnel is derived from a self-reported field so there may be some under-reporting. The 2024 [Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey](#) (AFCAS) estimated 48% of Service personnel were married/in a civil partnership, applying this to the trained Regular strength equates to just over 62,700 personnel.

Approximately 55,000 Regular trained Service personnel are married or in a civil partnership¹

Over half of all Service spouses are married to Army personnel¹

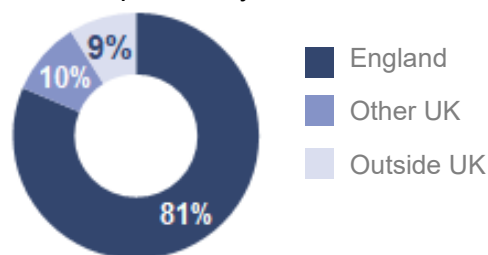
This distribution broadly reflects the relative size of the Services.

% married Service personnel by Service



The majority of Service spouses live in England¹

% Service spouses by location



71% of Service spouses are married to Other Ranks¹

29% of Service spouses are married to Officers¹

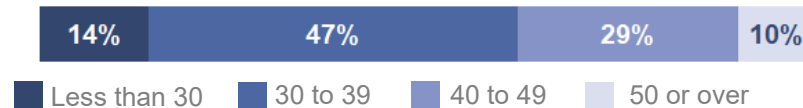
Estimates within the rest of this report are taken from the FamCAS. Comparisons to other data sources are referenced.

Nine in ten Service spouses are female

The majority of Serving personnel are male.²

Over three-fifths of Service spouses (62%) are aged under 40

% Service spouses by age



Other Rank spouses are, on average, younger than Officer spouses. Seven in ten Other Rank spouses (70%) are aged under 40 compared to just over four in ten Officer spouses (42%). This reflects the age difference between Officers and Other Ranks in the Regular Armed Forces

National Comparison

The [2021 Census](#) estimates 61% of the married population in England are aged over 50. This compares to 10% for Service spouses in England. This difference reflects the much older age profile of those married in the wider population compared to Service spouses.

Just over one in eight Service spouses (15%) report a non-UK nationality

A much higher proportion of Army Other Rank spouses report a non-UK nationality (26%) than the other Services/Rank groups. Overall, the Army report a higher proportion of non-UK nationalities amongst trained Regulars than the other Services.²

¹ Based on data from the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA) as at 1 February 2024.

² Please refer to the [UK Armed Forces biannual diversity statistics](#) for age, gender and nationality information.

79% of Service families have children



This includes families with children over the age of 18. A slightly lower proportion, 72%, have at least one child under 18.

National comparison

Although not directly comparable, the [UK Labour Force Survey](#) (LFS), estimates 53% of married couple households have children and 40% have dependent children, considerably fewer than Service families.

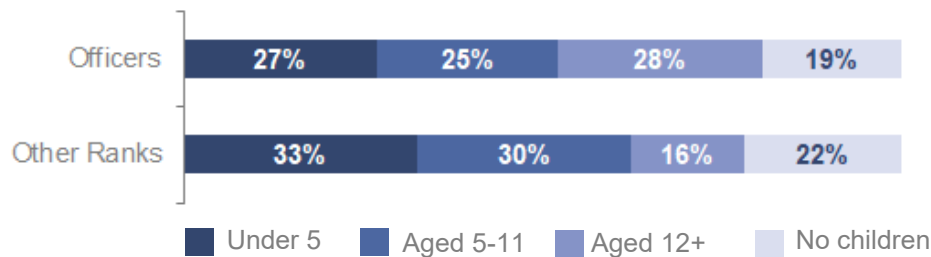
55% of Service families have at least one child of school age

31% of Service families have at least one child aged under 5

Although unchanged over the past three years, the proportion of families with a child aged under 5 has fallen from 37% since 2021, driven by changes amongst Army and RAF families.

Other Rank families tend to have younger children than Officer families

% families by age of youngest child



This is due, in part, to the age difference between Officer and Other Rank spouses as mentioned on the previous page.

53% of spouses are educated to Undergraduate level or above¹

This differs by Rank: 77% of Officer spouses compared to 43% of Other Rank spouses.

National comparison

Although not directly comparable, the [2021 Census](#) estimated that 34% of those aged 16 or above in England or Wales were educated to [Level 4](#) or above (e.g. Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelors Degree and post graduate qualifications).

81% of spouses are employed²

This includes 11% of spouses who are also serving in the Regular Armed Forces. Couples where both partners are members of the Regular Armed Forces are referred to as dual-serving couples.



59% of spouses are homeowners

Homeownership differs greatly by Rank and Service, ranging from 42% for Army Other Rank spouses to 85% for RN/RM Officer spouses.



AFCAS 2024 comparison

These results are broadly consistent with the AFCAS 2024 findings: 61% of married Service personnel are homeowners; 81% of spouses/civil partners are employed including 8% who are also serving in the Regular Armed Forces.

¹ Undergraduate level or above includes Undergraduate Degrees, Post-graduate Degrees and professional qualifications (e.g. teaching, nursing, accounting, civil engineering etc.).

² Employed refers to those in full-time, part-time or self employment.

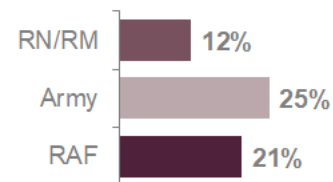
Service personnel are often posted to new locations and many spouses choose to accompany them rather than be separated. This means that Service spouses are also a very mobile population.

Over a fifth of Service families (22%) moved for Service reasons in the past year

This has been largely stable since 2017 although increased in 2020, driven by Army families. This increase was largely due to the [Army Basing Programme](#) which involved the return of a large number of Service families from Germany to the UK over the summer of 2019.

Army families are the most likely to move for Service reasons

% families moved for Service reasons in the past year



RN/RM families are the least likely to move for Service reasons; Royal Navy families cannot accompany Service personnel at sea.

A higher proportion of Officer families moved for Service reasons (25%) than Other Rank families (21%).

Of those who moved for Service reasons in the past year, nearly six in ten families (59%) moved within the same UK country

About one in ten families (11%) moved between UK countries whilst 15% moved to a country overseas. The remaining 15% moved to the UK from an overseas country.

About one in six families (16%) have moved at least three times for Service reasons in the past five years

Nearly a quarter of Officer families (24%) have moved at least three times for Service reasons in the past five years compared to 13% of Other Rank families.

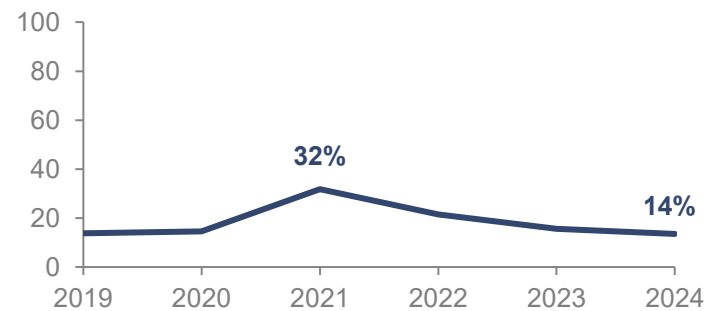
Nearly a quarter of Service couples (24%) live apart during the working week

This differs by Service, Rank and location. Officer spouses, spouses of RN/RM personnel and those living in Wales are more likely to live apart during the working week (28%, 37% and 54% respectively).

Levels of separation remain at pre-COVID levels

Following restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 lockdowns, the proportion of families experiencing no separation rose to almost a third in 2021 but fell over the following two years, back to pre-COVID levels where it remains this year.

% families experiencing no separation



Correspondingly, the proportion of families experiencing separation of three months or more fell to 21% in 2021 but has since increased to 33% this year.

One in five RN/RM spouses (20%) reported separation of more than six months over the past year, this compares to 11% of Army and 7% of RAF spouses.

AFCAS 2024 comparison

[AFCAS](#) also reported a reduction in separation from families in 2021. The proportion of personnel who reported not spending time away from their families increased from 12% in 2020 to 17% in 2021. In 2024 this has fallen back to 12%, reflecting a return to pre-COVID levels of separation.

Section 2 - Service comparisons

There are differences in the survey results for each Service which reflect the unique challenges faced by each. This section highlights the main differences in families' experiences of, and attitudes towards Service life.

Families approach Service life in different ways, and this may change as their circumstances do. Some families will live with their Serving partner in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) and will often accompany them when they are posted. This can lead to frequent house moves and the upheaval this causes. To provide more stability for their family, some families will live in their own home off base, often separately from their partner. There are also specific Service differences to consider. For example, Royal Navy families cannot accompany Service personnel at sea and, as a result, more Navy families will live separately from their partner.

Army and RAF families are more mobile than RN/RM families

Army families are the most likely to have moved home for Service reasons over the past year (25%) followed by RAF families (21%) and then RN/RM families (12%). Over half of RN/RM families (54%) have not moved within the past five years, compared to 31% and 34% of Army and RAF families, respectively.

RN/RM spouses experience more separation from their partner than Army and RAF spouses

RN/RM spouses are less likely to live with their partner during the working week (63%) compared to Army (80%) and RAF spouses (79%).

Over the past year, 20% of RN/RM spouses experienced separation from their partner of over six months compared to 11% of Army and 7% of RAF spouses.

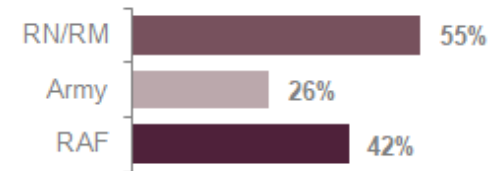
Army spouses are less likely to be employed than RN/RM or RAF spouses¹

This is driven by differences between employment rates amongst Other Rank spouses; 76% of Army Other Rank spouses are employed compared to 86% of RN/RM and 87% of RAF Other Rank spouses.

¹ Employed refers to those in full-time employment, part-time employment or self-employed

RN/RM families are the most likely to live in their own home whilst Army families are the least likely

% living in their own home during the working week



Army families are the most likely to be living in SFA (69%) followed by RAF (52%) and then RN/RM families (38%).

RN/RM families are the most likely to own a home (74%) followed by RAF (67%) whilst Army families are the least likely (50%).

RN/RM families are the least likely to have a child who changed school for Service reasons over the past year²

Of those with school age children, less than one in ten RN/RM families (7%) have a child who changed school for Service reasons compared to 18% for Army and 14% for RAF families.²

Army families are more likely to have a child at an independent boarding school (14%) compared to RN/RM (5%) or RAF families (7%). As a result, a higher proportion of Army families are in receipt of [Continuity of Education Allowance \(CEA\)](#) than other Service families.²

RN/RM spouses feel more negative about communications from the Service

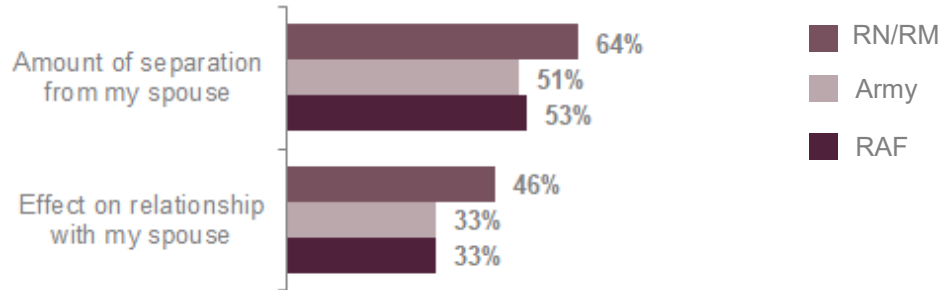
Compared to other Service spouses, a higher proportion of RN/RM spouses feel that communications are not often enough, and disagree that policies aimed at them are communicated effectively.

² SUBSET: Families with school age children (55%).

Different approaches to family life lead to different experiences and challenges which contribute to differences in views and attitudes.

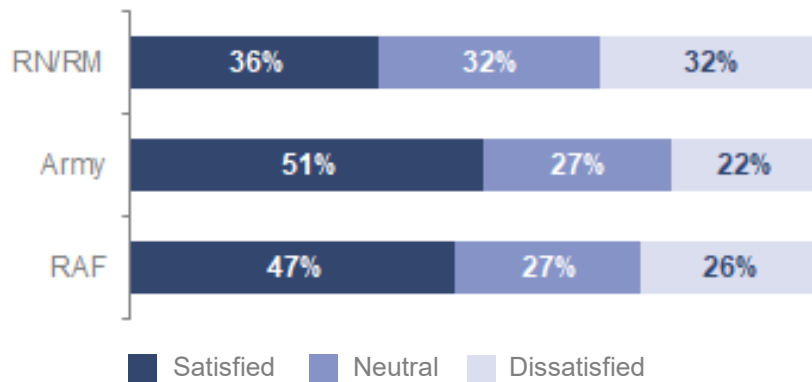
Despite some of the benefits of stability, RN/RM spouses feel more negative about some aspects of Service family life

% negative about...



RN/RM families are the least satisfied with their quality of life as a Service family

% satisfied/dissatisfied with their quality of life as a Service family

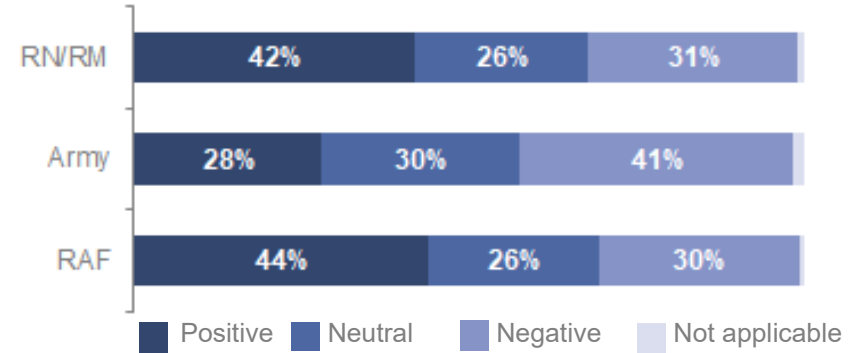


RN/RM spouses also feel more disadvantaged about family life (56%) compared to Army and RAF spouses (both 42%).

Nearly half of RN/RM spouses (46%) disagree that their family benefits from being a Service family followed by RAF spouses (40%). Army spouses are the least likely to disagree (34%) and most likely to agree (also 34%).

Army families feel less positive and more negative about household income than other Service families

% positive/negative about household income



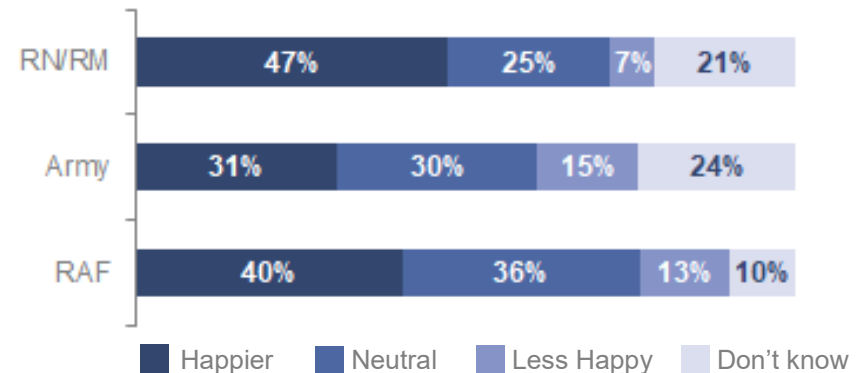
Army spouses are also the least positive about job security whilst RAF spouses are the most positive.

Over a quarter of Army families (28%) agree they feel part of the wider Service community compared to 14% of RN/RM and 17% of RAF families

Army spouses are also more positive about knowing other military families (46%) than RN/RM (35%) or RAF spouses (39%). RAF spouses are the most positive about community support for their family (24%), followed by Army (21%), whilst RN/RM spouses are the least positive (14%).

Navy families are the most likely to feel happier if their partner left the Service whilst Army spouses are the least likely

% happier/less happy if their partner left the Service

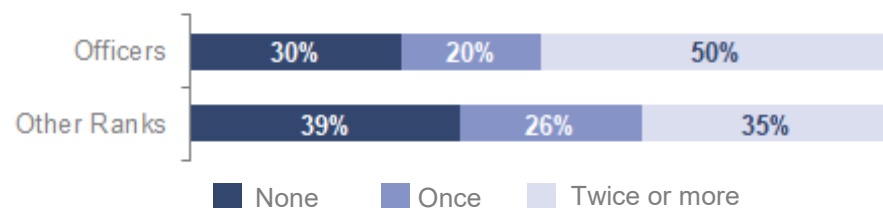


Section 3 - Officer/Other Rank comparisons

This section compares results for Officer and Other Rank families, highlighting the main differences in their experiences of, and attitudes towards Service life. Just over seven in ten Service spouses are married to Other Ranks (71%).

Officer families are more mobile than Other Rank families

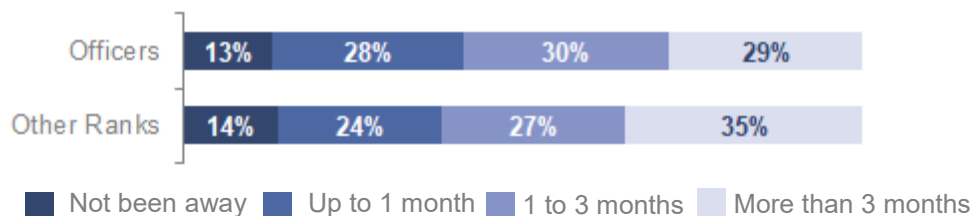
% number of times moved home for Service reasons over past five years



Over the past year, Officer families were more likely to have moved for Service reasons and accompany their partner overseas than Other Rank families. As a result, Officer spouses feel more negative about the number of house moves but are more positive about opportunities for travel than Other Rank spouses.

Over the past year, Other Rank spouses were more likely to experience more than three months of separation from their partner than Officer spouses

% by time spent away over the past year



However, Other Rank spouses are more likely to live with their partner (78%) than Officer spouses (72%).

Other Rank spouses are slightly more positive about separation (9%) than Officer spouses (6%). However, Other Rank spouses are more likely to feel operational tours are too often (27%) and too long (53%), than Officer spouses (18% and 43% respectively).

Of those with school age children, Officer families are more likely to have a child at an independent boarding school (21%) than Other Rank families (6%)

As a result, Officer families are more likely to be in receipt of [CEA](#) (22%) than Other Rank families (8%). This may help explain why there are no differences between the proportions of families with a child who changed school, despite higher mobility for Officer families.

Officer spouses feel more negative about the effect of Service life on their career (64%) than Other Rank spouses (53%)

Other Rank spouses are less likely to be employed, although this is due to lower employment rates for Army Other Rank spouses (76%) compared to Army Officer spouses (85%).

Of those who looked for a job in the past year¹, Other Rank spouses were more likely to experience difficulties finding suitable employment (64%) than Officer spouses (57%), largely driven by differences amongst Army spouses.

Over three-quarters of Officer families (78%) own a home compared to 50% of Other Rank families

Officer families are also more likely to live in their own home (43%) than Other Rank families (32%), whilst a higher proportion of Other Rank families (63%) live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) than Officer families (48%).

When asked where they would prefer to live, SFA is still selected by a higher proportion of Other Rank families (39%) than Officer families (34%). However, the gap has narrowed this year following an increase of four percentage points for Officer families.

¹ SUBSET: Those who looked for a job in the past year (38%).

Whilst FamCAS 2024 was in field, the [Modernised Accommodation Offer](#) was advertised to Service personnel and their families.

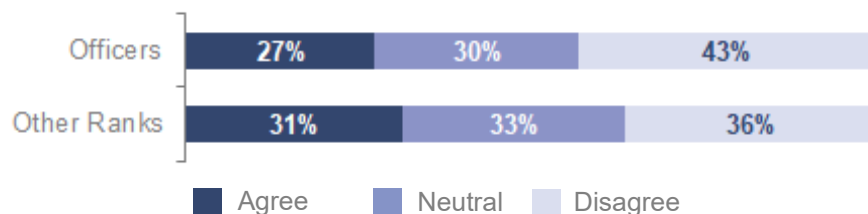
This may have influenced some responses to the FamCAS survey, particularly amongst Officer spouses who are more negative about some aspects of Service family life this year. These differences have led to some changes in the comparative views of Officer and Other Rank families.

Officer spouses are more negative about Service provided facilities (40%) than Other Rank spouses (28%)

This difference is due to an increase of six percentage points in the proportion of Officer families feeling negative.

Officer spouses are now less likely to agree their family benefits from being a Service family than Other Rank spouses

% agree/disagree their family benefits by being a Service family



This is a reversal on last year, when Officers were more likely to agree than Other Rank spouses. This change is due to a decrease of eight percentage points in agreement for Officer spouses this year alongside an increase of nine percentage points in disagreement.

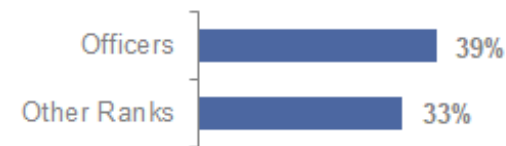
A higher proportion of Officer spouses now disagree they are valued by the Service (65%) than Other Rank spouses (57%)

This question did not differ by Rank last year. The proportion of Officer spouses who disagree they feel valued by the Service increased by eight percentage points this year.

In 2024, a higher proportion of Officer spouses would feel happier if their partner left the Service (42%) than Other Rank spouses (34%).

Officer spouses remain more positive about household income than Other Rank spouses

% positive about household income



However, the gap has narrowed after the proportion of Officer spouses feeling positive fell by five percentage points this year.

Views on household income may reflect higher levels of [pay](#) for Officers than Other Ranks.

Officer spouses remain considerably more positive about knowing other military families than Other Rank spouses

% positive about knowing other military families

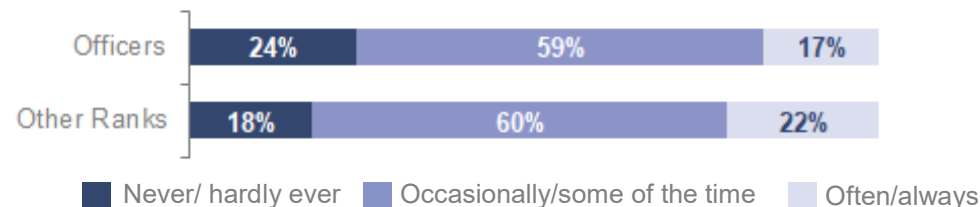


Officer spouses are also more likely to agree they feel part of the wider Service community (26%) than Other Rank spouses (21%).

These feelings of community may contribute to views on loneliness.

Officer spouses remain less likely to feel lonely than Other Rank spouses

% by how often they feel lonely



On average, Officer spouses also score slightly better on all four of the [well-being measures](#) such as satisfaction with your life nowadays, than Other Rank spouses.

Section 4 - Overseas families comparison

This section compares results for families living overseas (858 respondents) against those for families living in England (4,258 respondents); highlighting the main differences in their experiences of, and attitudes towards Service life. Over eight in ten Service families (81%) live in England whilst 9% live overseas, outside the UK.

Data Quality Note

Due to the number of respondents from overseas there may be less evidence to identify differences as statistically significant. Comparisons are made against families living in England, the country with the highest number of respondents, because this will provide more evidence to identify differences in experiences, and attitudes.

Amongst overseas families, there are a lower proportion of RN/RM families (12%) compared to families in England (20%). Correspondingly, overseas families have higher proportions of Army and RAF families than those living in England. Also, overseas families have a slightly higher proportion of Officer families (32%) compared to families in England (29%)¹. These variations may contribute to differences between results for overseas and England families.

This section highlights differences on average between families living overseas and those living in England. Experiences and views of living overseas will differ by family, depending on location and many other circumstances.

More overseas spouses have a non-UK nationality (31%) than families living in England (13%)

There are no notable differences by other demographics such as age, sex or qualification levels.

Overseas families are more mobile than those living in England

Over half of overseas families (55%) have moved at least twice in the past five years. This compares to 38% for families in England.

¹ Based on data from the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA) as at 1 February 2024

Families living overseas are more likely to live with their partner (88%) than families living in England (76%)

This is largely due to the high proportion of overseas families who accompanied their partner overseas in the past year (74%).

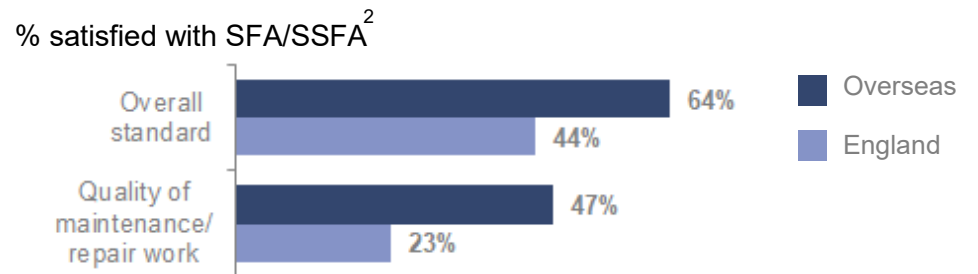
Overseas families are less likely to experience separation of over three months (23%) than families living in England (33%).

This may explain why overseas families feel less negative about separation (39%) than families living in England (54%).

A higher proportion of overseas families live in SFA (71%) compared to families living in England (59%)

A further 11% of overseas families live in SSFA ([Substitute Service Family Accommodation](#)), whilst just 1% live in their own home compared to 37% of families in England.

Overseas families are considerably more satisfied with many aspects of SFA/SSFA than those living in England



Those living overseas are also more able to access facilities on their local base than those living in England which may contribute to overseas families feeling more positive about Service provided facilities (44%) than those living in England (29%).

² SUBSET: Those living in SFA/SSFA (60%)

Overseas spouses are considerably less likely to be employed than those living in England

% employed



Overseas spouses are less likely to be in full-time (20%) and part-time employment (17%) compared to those living in England (58% and 22%, respectively).

Spouses living overseas are also more likely to have looked for a job in the past year (51%) than those in England (36%).

Of those who looked for a job, overseas spouses were more likely to experience difficulties than those living in England

% experienced difficulties finding suitable employment



These differences may contribute to...

Overseas spouses feel more negative about the effect on their career than those living in England

% negative about effect on their career



Of those who require further/higher education, overseas families are less able to access it (49% unable) compared to those living in England (27% unable).

Similar proportions of families living overseas and in England have children (74% and 79%, respectively)

One in five overseas families (20%) have a child aged 12 to 17 compared to 28% for families in England. Otherwise, there is little difference by age of children. Similar proportions have children of school age: 53% of overseas families and 55% of families living in England.

Almost half (49%) of overseas families with school age children use a MOD school compared to 2% of families living in England

More families living overseas use independent day schools (15%) compared to those living in England (7%). Fewer overseas families have a child in a state school (19%) than families living in England (84%).

The MOD provides schools and early years settings in key locations overseas, these are run by [Defence Children Services](#) (DCS).

Overseas families are more mobile and hence more likely to have a child change school for Service reasons in the past year

% had a child change school for Service reasons in the past year¹



Of those with a child who changed school, overseas families were less likely to apply for a place at a state school (31%) than families living in England (86%).

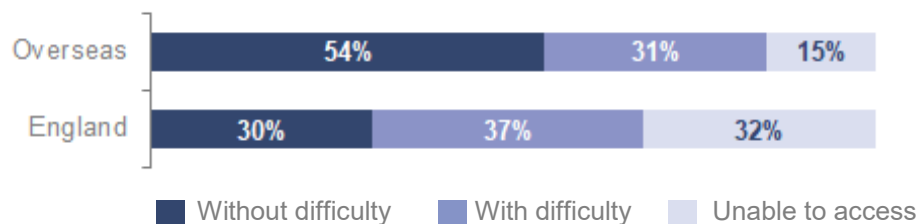
Fewer overseas families needed childcare for school age children in the past year (35%) compared to those living in England (51%)

Overseas families were less satisfied with some aspects of childcare for school age children than families living in England. For example, of those who required childcare for school aged children, 39% of overseas families were satisfied with availability compared to 69% of families in England.

¹ SUBSET: Those with school age children (55%)

Of those who required treatment, overseas families were more able to access dental treatment than families living in England

% by ability to access dental treatment¹

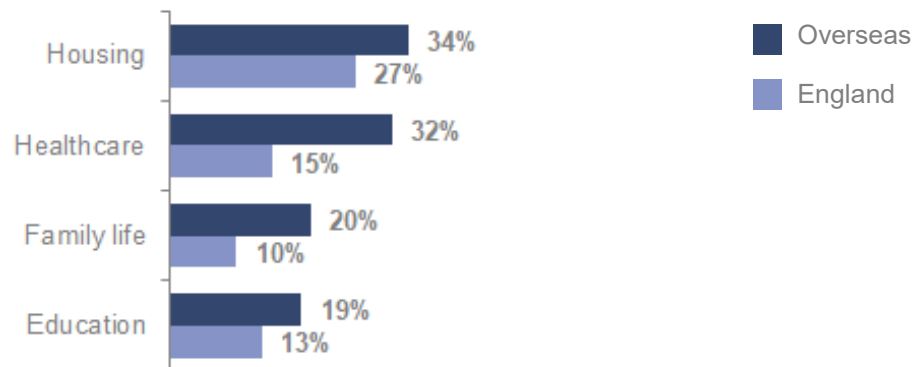


This may contribute to overseas families feeling more advantaged about healthcare than families living in England.

Access to [healthcare overseas](#): families posted to some larger overseas units can access medical and dental care at the station Medical Centre. However, healthcare available for families varies by overseas location.

Overseas families feel more advantaged about many aspects of Service family life compared to those living in England

% advantaged compared to the general population about...

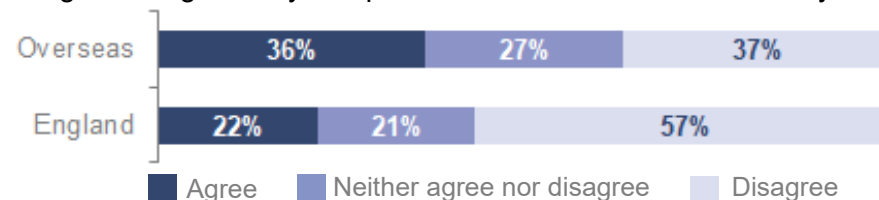


However, overseas families feel more disadvantaged about childcare (44%), and access to commercial products and services (34%), than those living in England (34% and 20%, respectively).

¹ SUBSET: Those families who required dental treatment (89%)

Overseas families are more likely to feel part of the wider Service community than those living in England

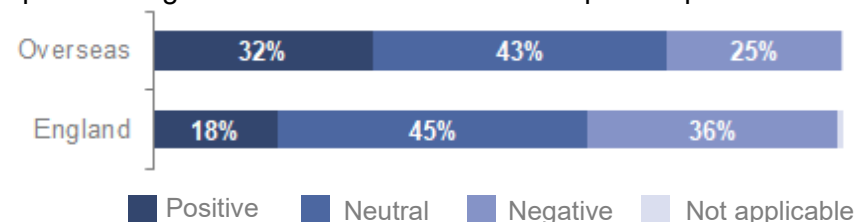
% agree/disagree they feel part of the wider Service community



Overseas families feel more positive about knowing other military families, and community support for their family than those living in England.

Overseas spouses are more positive about the effect of Service life on their relationship with their partner than those living in England

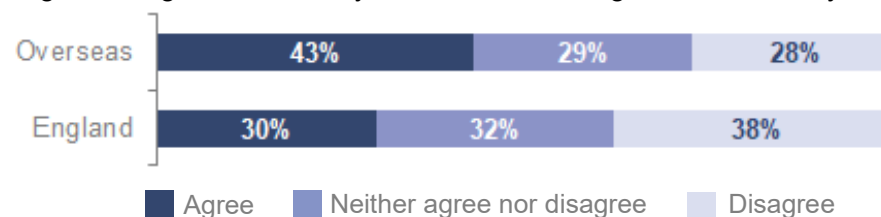
% positive/negative about effect on relationship with spouse



Overseas families feel more positive about the effect of Service life on their children than those living in England.¹

Overseas families are also more likely to feel their family benefits from being a Service family

% agree/disagree their family benefits from being a Service family



Overseas spouses are also more satisfied with their quality of life as a Service family than those living in England.

¹ SUBSET: Those with children (79%)

Section 5 - Armed Forces Covenant, well-being and Service life

Section 5 covers voting registration as well as a number of questions related to the Armed Forces Covenant. These measure whether families feel advantaged or disadvantaged compared to the general public. This section also includes questions on well-being, satisfaction with Service life as well as how positive or negative they feel about aspects of Service life.

Armed Forces Covenant

Announced by the government in May 2011, the [Armed Forces Covenant](#) is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces and their families, are treated fairly.

Just under three in ten (29%) have never heard of the Armed Forces Covenant, unchanged since 2020

Awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant



Between 2015 and 2018 the proportion of spouses reporting that they had never heard of the Armed Forces Covenant fell from 41% to 33%. Since then, levels of awareness of the Covenant have remained relatively stable.

Officer spouses continue to have a greater awareness of the Covenant compared to Other Rank spouses. The majority of Officer spouses (87%) have at least heard of the Covenant compared to 64% of Other Rank spouses.

A higher proportion of Army spouses have “never heard of” the Covenant (35%) compared to RN/RM and RAF spouses (23% and 21% respectively).

Note that, the FamCAS 2024 survey closed prior to the announcement of the 2024 General Election.

Overall, just over eight in ten Service spouses (81%) are registered to vote

This is unchanged since last year, but seven percentage points lower than the peak reported in 2020 (88%).

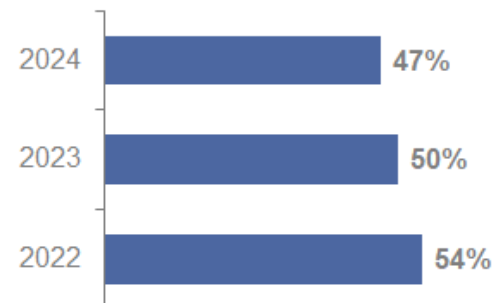
Officer spouses are more likely to be registered to vote (89%) than Other Rank spouses (78%).

AFCAS 2024 comparison

A slightly higher proportion of married Service personnel are registered to vote (88%).

The proportion of families satisfied with their quality of life as a Service family has fallen for the second year in a row to its lowest reported level

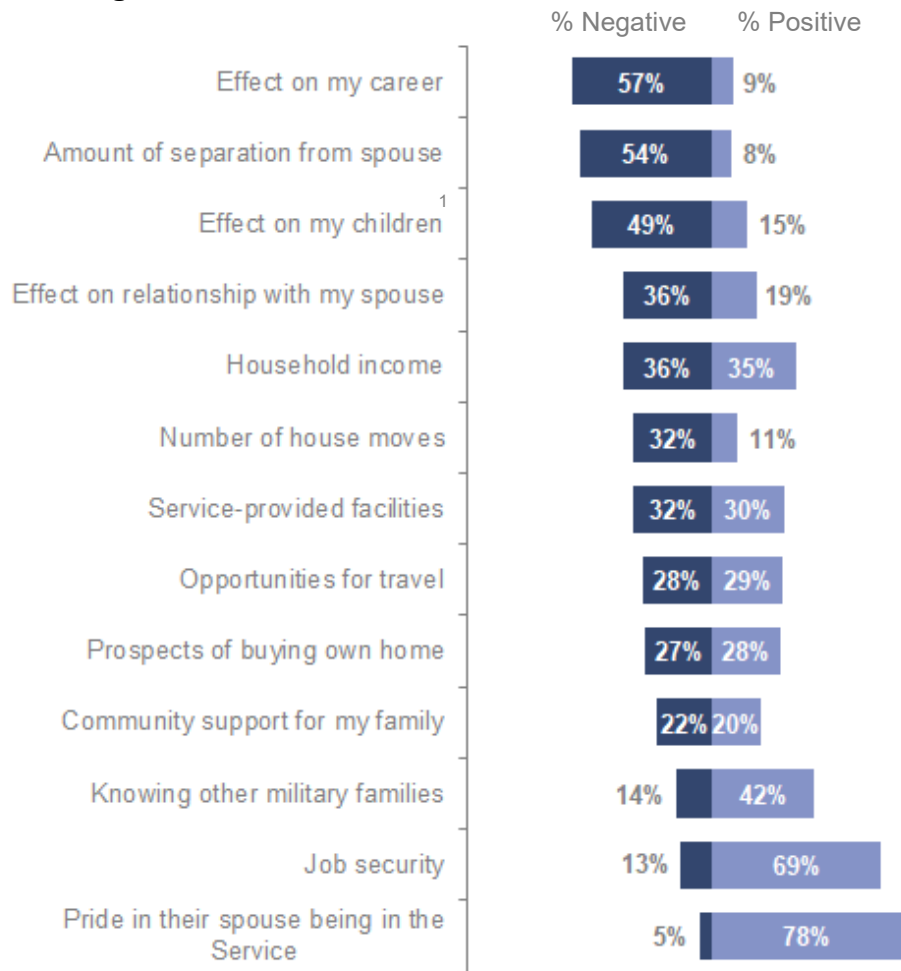
% satisfied with their quality of life as a Service family



First asked in 2022, the decreases reported since then are particularly evident for RN/RM families.

RN/RM families are the least satisfied (36%) with their quality of life as a Service family compared to Army (51%) and RAF families (47%).

Effect on my career, separation and effect on my children continue to be the aspects of Service family life spouses feel most negative about



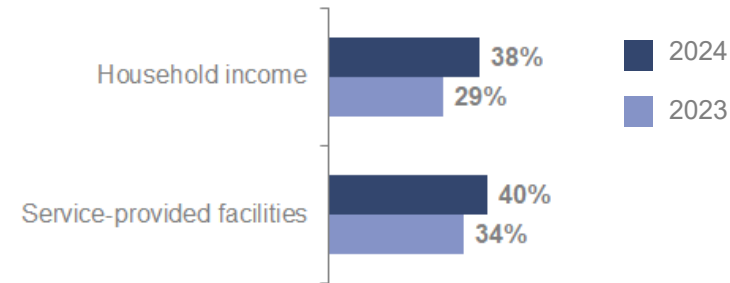
Pride in their spouse continues to be the aspect Service spouses feel most positive about, at 78%, unchanged since last year

This is followed by job security, with nearly seven in ten (69%) feeling positive about this aspect of Service family life. Unchanged since 2022, the proportion feeling positive about job security is above all reported levels prior to 2019 but remains below the peak level reported in 2021 (75%).

¹SUBSET: Families with children (79%).

Whilst attitudes amongst Other Rank families remain largely unchanged this year, Officer families are feeling more negative about some aspects of Service family life this year

% Officer families negative about...

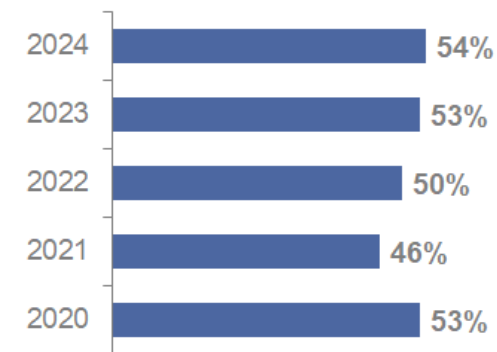


Officer families are also feeling more negative about community support, up from 19% in 2023, to 24%.

Officer spouses are also feeling less positive about pride in their partner being in the Service, opportunities for travel and job security this year.

Negative attitudes towards some aspects of Service family life remain in line with levels reported pre-COVID

% negative about the amount of separation from their partner

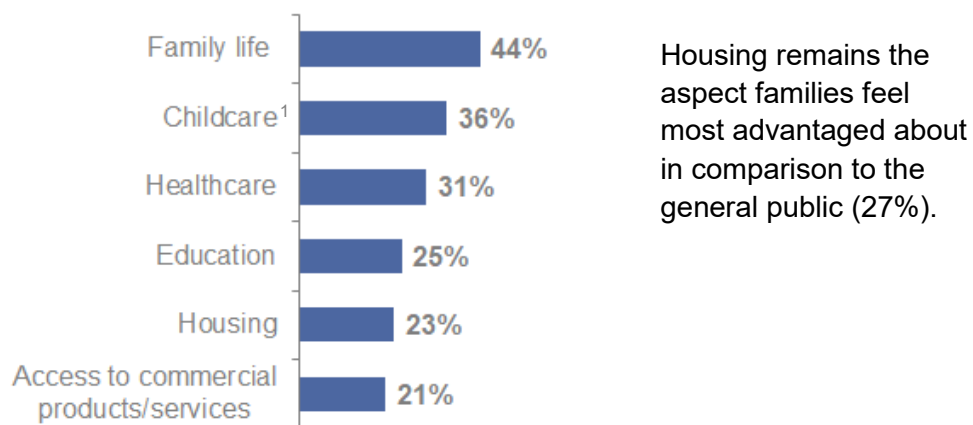


Following a dip in 2021, the proportion of spouses feeling negative about the amount of separation from their partner has steadily increased, from 46% in 2021 to 54% this year.

A similar picture is reported for other aspects of Service family life. For example, the proportion of families feeling negative about the effect of Service family life on the relationship with their partner fell to 27% in 2021, but has since increased back to pre-COVID levels (36% in 2024).

Family life remains the aspect families feel most disadvantaged about in comparison to the general public, at 44%

% feeling disadvantaged about...



Attitudes towards feeling advantaged or disadvantaged about these aspects remain unchanged this year. Those feeling advantaged about childcare remains at 11%, above all levels prior to 2023. All other levels of feeling advantaged remain in line with, or lower than, reported levels since these questions were first asked in 2015.

AFCAS 2024 comparison

Married Service personnel feel more disadvantaged about family life compared to Service spouses.

Overall, six in ten (60%) families do not feel valued by the Services, remaining in line with its highest reported levels

% agree/disagree that I feel valued by the Service

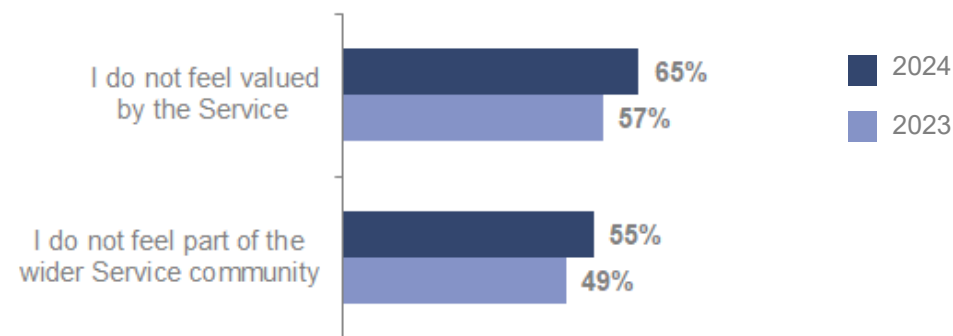


A slightly lower proportion of families (56%) do not feel part of the wider Service community, unchanged since 2022 at its highest reported level.

¹SUBSET: Families with children (79%).

More Officer families report that they do not feel valued by the Service, nor feel part of the wider Service community, compared to all levels previously recorded

% Officer families' views on...



Attitudes towards feeling valued are unchanged amongst Other Rank families since 2022, with 57% reporting that they do not feel valued by the Services. A similar proportion of Other Rank families (56%) do not feel part of the wider Service community, also unchanged since 2022.

AFCAS 2024 comparison

Married Service personnel are considerably more likely to agree that they feel valued in the Service (38%) compared to Service families (14%).

The proportion of spouses who would feel happier if their partner chose to leave the Service remains at its highest reported level this year, at 37%

More than four in ten Officer spouses (42%) would feel happier if their partner chose to leave their Service, increasing for the second year in a row. These increases are particularly evident for RN/RM and Army Officer spouses. Attitudes amongst Other Rank spouses are relatively unchanged since 2022.

RN/RM spouses are more likely to feel happier if their partner chose to leave the Service (47%), followed by RAF (40%) and then Army spouses (31%).

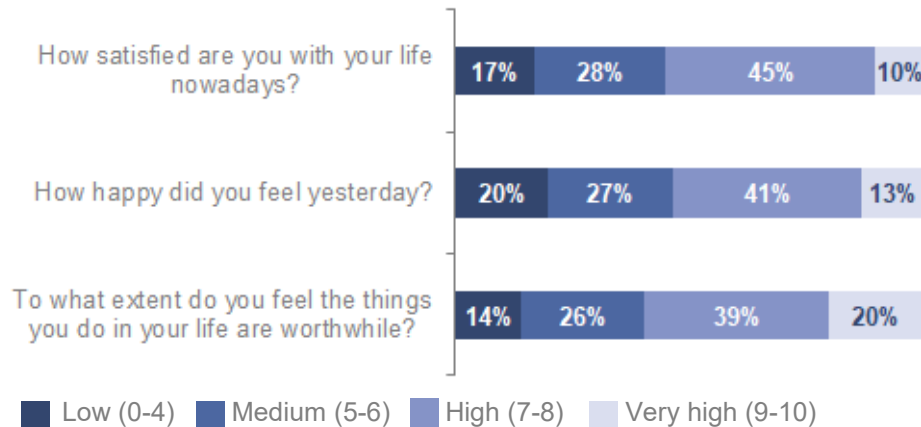
It is worth noting that, overall, just over three in ten (31%) would feel no different if their partner chose to leave the Service.

Measuring well-being

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects [data on well-being](#) for the general population in their Annual Population Survey.

Well-being measures of Service spouses

Views on...



The well-being of Service spouses remains relatively stable compared to last year. However, the proportion of spouses rating their happiness as “very high” has fallen two percentage points since last year to its lowest reported level (13%).

More than a third (35%) of spouses rate their anxiety as “high”, up from 32% last year, in line with 2022 levels.

National comparison

[National well-being scores](#) are not directly comparable to those of Service spouses due to differences in demographics. For example, national figures include a larger proportion of over 60s, who generally score their well-being higher than younger people. However, the latest national well-being results from 2023 by sex may still provide some context. The proportion of UK females scoring aspects of their well-being as ‘very high’ (a score of 9-10) ranges between 24-35%. These are considerably higher than corresponding results for female Service spouses (10-21%).

Well-being scores differ by attributes, such as employment status

Overall, spouses who are employed, homeowners, those who live in their own home, or are married to an Officer, tend to be more positive across the four well-being measures.

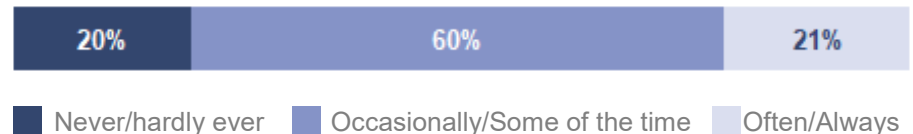
However, there are overlaps between these groups, for example Officer spouses are more likely to be homeowners and so the differences observed may be due to other reasons.

AFCAS 2024 comparison

Well-being results for married Service personnel and Service spouses are relatively similar.

Levels of loneliness remain unchanged this year, with around one in five (21%) feeling lonely often or always; a similar proportion never or hardly ever feel lonely

% by how often spouses feel lonely



These levels have been stable since 2022. Loneliness levels improved slightly in 2021 when just 15% of spouses reported feeling lonely often or always.

National comparison

The latest results from the [2016-2022 ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey](#) provide some context to these results. For females in Great Britain, 7% feel lonely often or always. Although not directly comparable, this figure is considerably different from female Service spouses (22%).

Section 6 - Childcare and Children's Education

Section 6 focuses on families with children, particularly their ability to access childcare, and satisfaction with local childcare facilities. This section also covers the difficulties families experience in relation to their children's schooling.

Just under eight in ten Service families (79%) have children

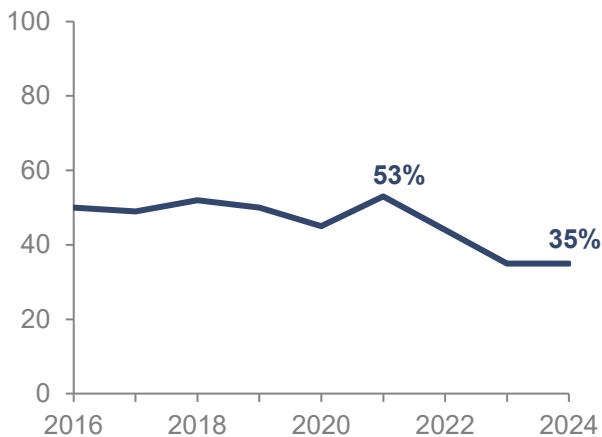


Nearly three-quarters of families (74%) with a child aged under five required early years (0-4) childcare¹

Of those who require early years childcare, nearly nine in ten (86%) are able to access it.

Satisfaction with the cost of early years childcare remains at its lowest recorded level, following decreases in 2022 and 2023

% satisfied with cost of early years childcare²



Satisfaction with cost has fallen 18 percentage points since 2021, to 35%. This decrease may be due, in part, to recent cost of living pressures.

The majority of families are satisfied with quality (78%), access and opening hours (both 69%) of early years childcare, all unchanged this year.

National Comparison

Although not directly comparable, the [Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents in England](#) from 2022 also reports much more positive views around the quality than the cost of childcare.

¹SUBSET: Families with a child aged under five (31%)

²SUBSET: Families who needed early years (0-4) childcare (25%).

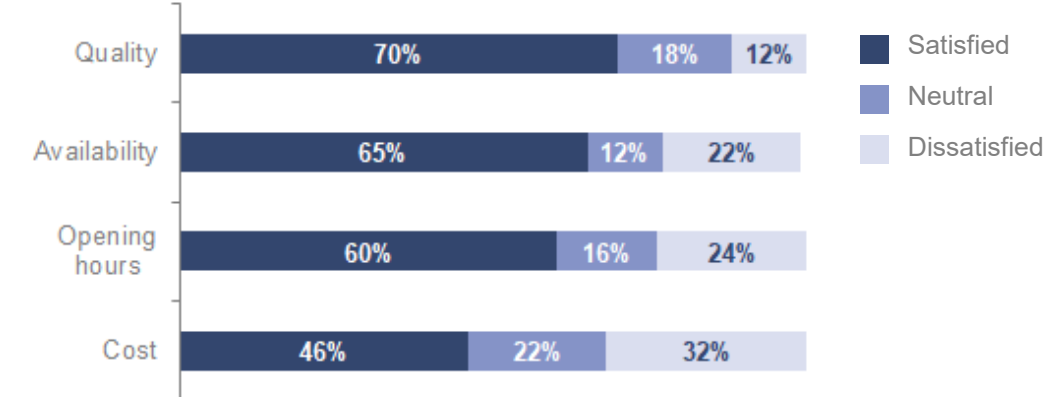
Over half of all Service families (55%) have at least one child of school age

Of these families, half (50%) required childcare such as breakfast/after school clubs in the last 12 months

This figure is in line with all previous levels apart from 2021 when requirement fell to around four in ten (41%). This may have been due, in part, to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schooling.

Less than half (46%) of families who required childcare for school age children are satisfied with the cost of their local childcare

% satisfied/dissatisfied with aspects of local childcare for school age children³



Levels of satisfaction with all four aspects of local childcare remain relatively unchanged since 2017 when these questions were first asked.

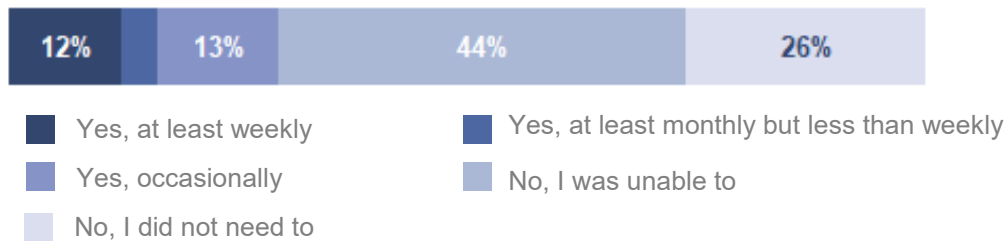
Army families are less satisfied with the cost, quality and opening hours of local childcare compared to other Service families.

In general, families are more satisfied with most aspects of early years childcare than childcare for school age children, apart from cost.

³SUBSET: Families who needed childcare for school age children (27%).

Around one in eight families with children use free informal childcare at least weekly¹

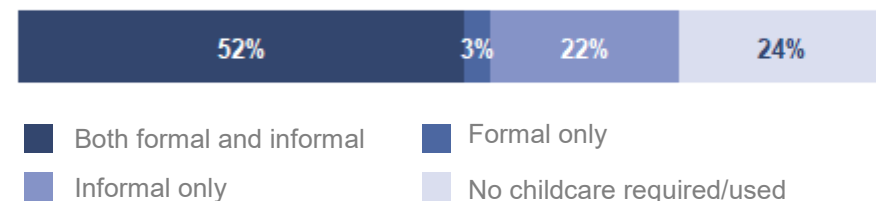
Use of free informal childcare²



Three in ten families with children (30%) make some use of free informal childcare. RN/RM families are more likely to access free informal childcare at least weekly than Army and RAF families.

Over half of families with children (55%) required formal childcare in the last 12 months

Requirement for formal/informal childcare²



Use of childcare is affected by the age of the children. Of those families with at least one child aged 0-11, 70% require formal childcare. This increases to 77% for families with at least one child aged under five.

National Comparison

Although not directly comparable to Service families, the [Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents in England](#) reports around 71% of families with a child aged 0-4 used formal childcare.

¹Free informal childcare such as grandparents, extended family, friends etc.

²SUBSET: Families with children (79%).

Of those families who required childcare³, over half (52%) do not currently use any government childcare initiatives

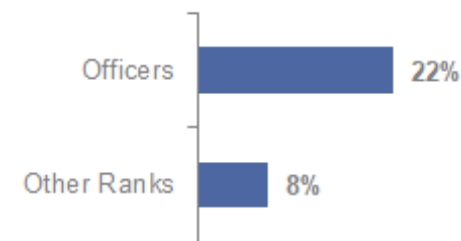
The top reason for not using these initiatives is uncertainty around eligibility. A higher proportion of Other Rank families do not use any of these initiatives (55%) compared to Officer families (46%).

Tax free childcare accounts and free childcare hours are the most commonly used government childcare initiatives amongst Service families³ (34% and 17% respectively). Since 2021, the proportion using tax free childcare accounts has increased considerably, by 15 percentage points. This may be due, in part, to [MOD's introduction of its Wraparound Childcare Scheme](#) and the eligibility criteria.

The proportion using the Salary Sacrifice scheme (4%) continues to fall which may be due, in part, to the [closure of the childcare voucher scheme](#) in 2018.

Around one in eight families with school age children receive Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA); Officer families are much more likely to receive CEA than Other Rank families

% families with school age children who receive CEA⁴



This reflects the higher proportion of Officer families with a child at an independent boarding school (21%; Other Rank families: 6%).

Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) assists Service personnel with boarding school fees to achieve the continuity of education for their children that would otherwise not be possible if their children accompanied them on frequent assignments both at home and overseas. Further details are available from the [Children's Education Advisory Service](#).

³SUBSET: Families with children who required childcare in the past 12 months (60%).

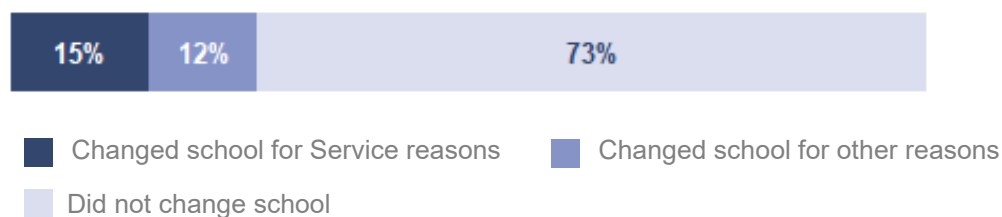
⁴SUBSET: Families with school age children (55%).

The majority (79%) of families with school age children¹ have at least one child at a state school

Other Rank families are more likely to have a child at a state school (84%) compared to Officer families (68%).

The proportion of families with school age children who changed school for Service reasons in the last 12 months remains unchanged this year, at 15%

% changed school/did not change school



A quarter (25%) of families with school age children experienced difficulties with their children's schooling in the past year

In line with results since 2022, the proportion of families experiencing difficulties with their children's schooling remains above the lowest level reported in 2019 (19%).

The most common difficulty experienced by families with their children's schooling was obtaining support for Special Educational Needs (SEN)¹

Nearly one in ten (9%) families with school age children experienced difficulties with obtaining support for SEN, remaining at its highest reported level since this question was first asked in 2017.

The second most common difficulty was getting a place at the school of their choice. This was selected by 7% of families, unchanged since first asked in 2017.

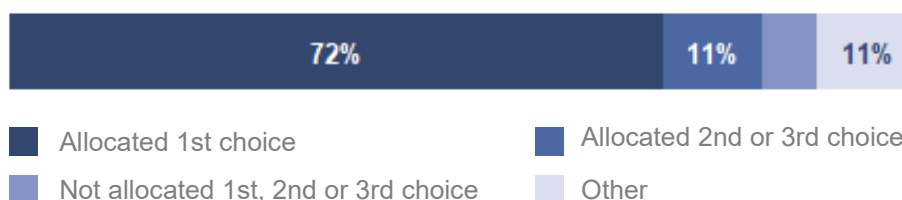
¹ SUBSET: Families with school age children (55%).

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of families who changed schools were able to apply within the timeline for a normal point of entry^{2,3}

Nearly eight in ten (79%) families who changed schools in the last 12 months applied for a place at a state school.

More than seven in ten (72%) families who applied for a place at a state school were allocated their first choice of school, similar to previous years

State school allocation⁴



National Comparison

Although not directly comparable to Service families, [national figures on school applications](#) offer some context: 82.9% of secondary school place applicants received an offer of their first choice school. For primary school applicants this was 93.2%.

Three-quarters (75%) of families who applied for a place at a state school were happy with their allocation. Conversely, a quarter were not happy with their allocation.

² SUBSET: Families with at least one child who changed school (15%).

³ The normal point of entry refers to the school's application period for the beginning of Reception, Year 7, Year 12 or equivalent.

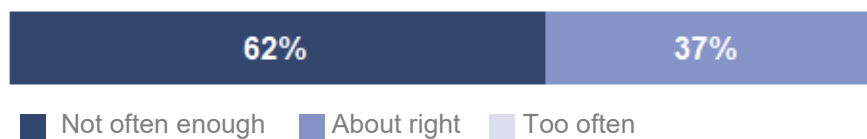
⁴ SUBSET: Families with a child who changed school and applied for a place at a state school (11%).

Section 7 - Communications and access to local base

Section 7 covers views and experiences of communications from the Armed Forces as well as preferred methods of communication for families. This section also looks at the ability of spouses to access facilities on their local base.

Over six in ten families (62%) feel the communications they currently receive are not often enough

Views on the frequency of current communications

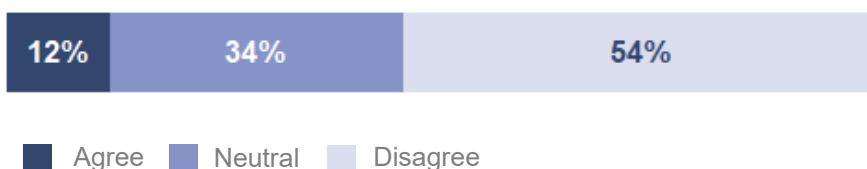


Just 1% of spouses feel communications are too often. These results are unchanged since 2023, when this question was introduced.

A higher proportion of RN/RM families feel communications are not often enough (73%) compared to Army (60%) or RAF families (57%).

Over half of families (54%) disagree that policies aimed at them are communicated to them effectively by the Services

% agree/disagree policies aimed at them are communicated to them effectively by the Services



These results are unchanged since last year, when this question was first introduced.

RN/RM families are the most likely to disagree (62%) followed by RAF (56%) and then Army families (51%).

Over half of families are neutral about the relevance (58%) and clarity (56%) of information they receive from the Services

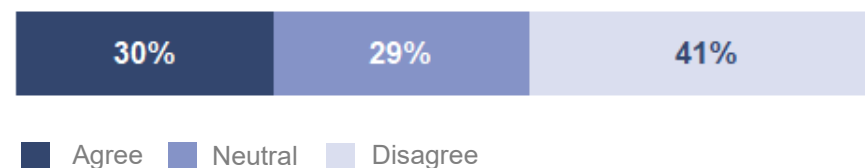
This may reflect the large proportion of families who feel they do not receive enough communication from the Services and are therefore, unable to comment on relevance or clarity.

Just over a fifth of families (21%) were satisfied with the relevance of the information they receive and about a quarter (26%) were satisfied with how clear the information is.

RN/RM families were less satisfied than Army and RAF families.

Over four in ten families (41%) disagree they are able to get information they need about support offered to them by the Services

% agree/disagree they are able to get information they need about support offered to them by the Services



Overall, these results remain unchanged since this question was first asked in 2022, although the proportion of Officer families who disagree increased from 35% in 2023 to 43% this year.

Data quality

It should be noted that the respondents to the Families surveys are those who received communications about the surveys. Results in this section may be influenced by this.

Data quality

A question asking how the Services currently communicate with you was added last year. It should be noted that FamCAS is now an online only survey. The main method of distribution was an email invite sent via the Serving person; 88% of spouses heard about the survey via this method. These factors may have influenced the results for this section.

When asked how the Service currently communicates with you, the top response was “I do not currently receive any communication” selected by 49% of spouses

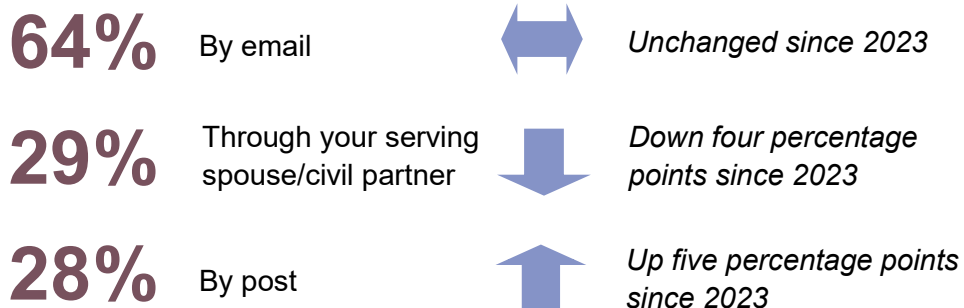
RN/RM spouses were the most likely to select this option (63%), followed by RAF spouses (49%) and then Army spouses (43%).

Fewer spouses living overseas (32%) selected this option compared to families living in UK countries (ranging from 50% to 53%).

The second most selected option was “Through your spouse/civil partner”, chosen by 39% of spouses.

Spouses were asked how they would prefer the Service to communicate with them; email remains the most preferred option

The top three methods selected as either first or second preference were:



Contact details for Service spouses are collected for next of kin purposes and held on the central Armed Forces administration system. This mostly consists of postal addresses. Email addresses are not widely recorded.

About eight in ten spouses (79%) would use the facilities at their local base if they were easily able to access them

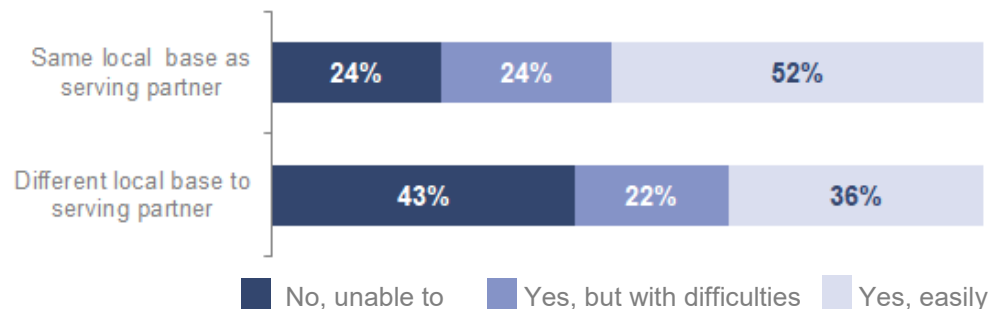
Although unchanged since last year, this is above the 76% reported in 2022 when this question was first asked.

Of those spouses who required access to their local base, 44% were able to do so easily

This is an improvement on the 40% reported in 2022. Correspondingly, there has been a reduction in the proportion unable to access facilities, falling from 38% in 2022 to 33% this year.

Of those who required access, spouses with the same local base as their serving partner were more able to access it

% by ability to access facilities on their local base ²



Ability to access their local base has improved since 2022 for those with the same local base as their partner. However, there has been no change in ability to access facilities amongst those with a different local base to their partner.

RN/RM spouses are less able to access their local base than their counterparts in the other Services. This is the case whether or not they share a local base with their partner.

¹ SUBSET: Spouses who required access to their local base (54%).

² SUBSET: Spouses who required access and have the same local base as their serving partner (29%) compared to those who required access but have a different local base (20%).

Section 8 - Deployment

Section 8 looks at spouses' views on the length and frequency of operational tours. This section also looks at their experiences of the support and information services available to them before, during and after their spouse's deployments.

During 2014 the UK Armed Forces reduced its military presence in Afghanistan from over 5,000 personnel to less than 500. Since then, deployments have been more dispersed over a wider range of locations. See the MOD's [UK Defence in numbers](#) for more information.

Nearly a quarter of spouses feel that the frequency of operational tours is "too often"

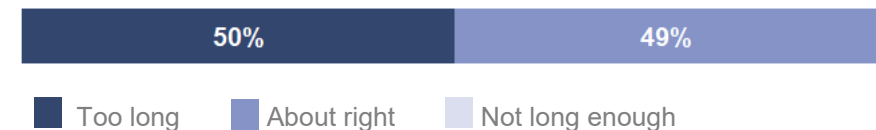
Views on the frequency of operational tours



More Other Rank spouses feel the frequency of operational tours is "too often" (27%) than Officer spouses (18%).

Half of spouses report that the length of operational tours is "too long"

Views on the length of operational tours¹



AFCAS 2024 comparison

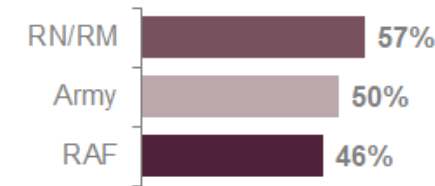
In comparison to their spouses, 18% of married Service personnel feel they deploy "too often" while 22% feel their deployments are "not often enough".

Fewer married Service personnel felt the length of their tours was "too long" (16%) compared to their partners.

¹ SUBSET: Those whose spouse has been deployed within the past two years (44%).

RN/RM spouses are more likely to feel that the length of operational tours is "too long" than other Service spouses

% feel the length of operational tours is too long¹



Over a third of spouses (36%) do not know where to go for welfare support and information whilst their spouse is on an operational tour

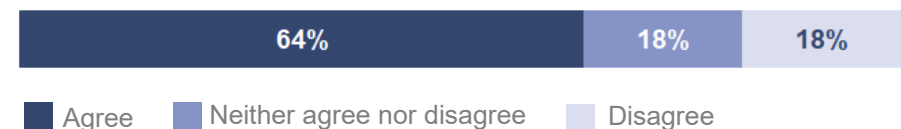
Nearly six in ten (58%) do know where to go for welfare support and information. Although unchanged for the past three years, this is lower than all reported results prior to 2022.

RN/RM spouses are less likely to know where to go for welfare support and information (49%) compared to Army (62%) and RAF families (58%).

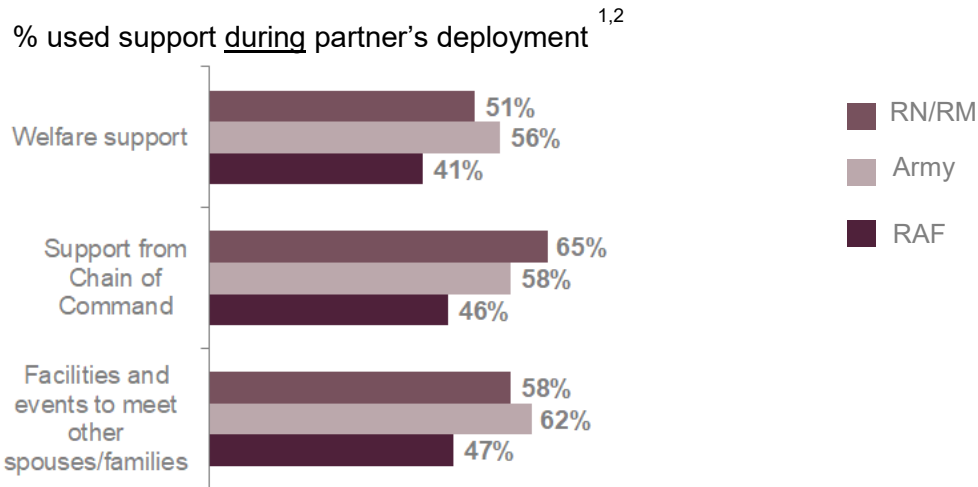
The aim of Rest & Recuperation (R&R) is to provide Service personnel a break from the intensity of operational deployments and where possible spend time with family. The question below was added in 2024 to aid understanding of the impact of R&R on families.

Nearly two-thirds of spouses agree their partners last period of Rest & Recuperation was of benefit to their family

% agree/disagree their partner's period of R&R was of benefit to their family¹



RAF spouses are less likely to make use of Service-provided support before, during and after their partner's deployment than RN/RM or Army spouses



Use of many aspects of support has fallen since 2016/2017 amongst Army families. For example, 73% of Army families said they used welfare support before their partner's deployment in 2016. In 2024 this has fallen to 60%.

Nearly seven in eight spouses (87%) make use of lines of communication with their partner during deployment; this remains the most used support service.

[AFCAS 2024](#) reports a much lower proportion of RAF personnel deployed as part of a unit on their last deployment (36%) than the other Services (ranging from 71% for the Army to 81% for the Royal Navy).

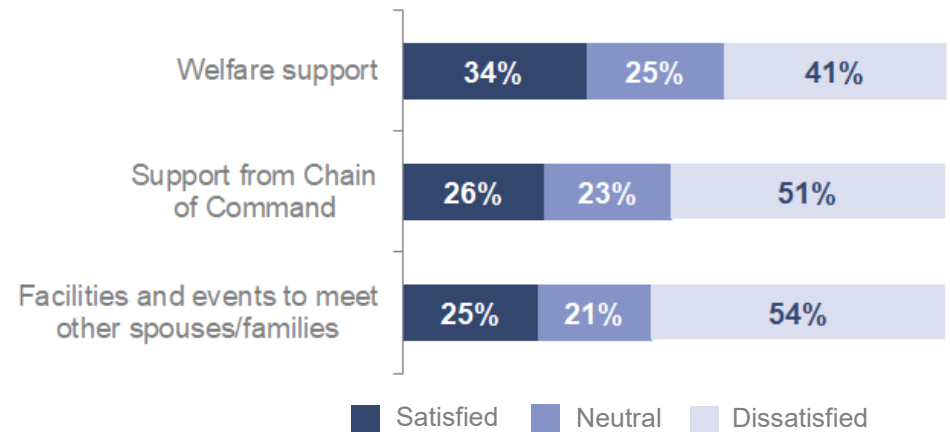
AFCAS also shows a decrease in the proportion of Army personnel deployed as part of a unit, falling from 79% in 2016 to 71% in 2024. These differences may contribute to some of the results shown here.

¹ SUBSET: Those whose spouse has been deployed within the past two years (44%).

² USE is derived by summing responses with a valid satisfaction level who did NOT tick the "Did not use" response option.

Many spouses are dissatisfied with Service-provided support during their partner's deployment

% satisfied/dissatisfied with support used during their partner's deployment¹

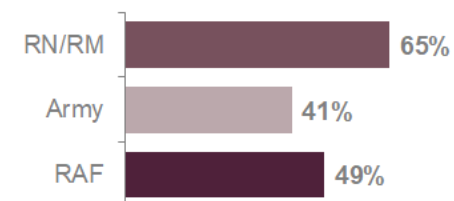


Similar results are reported for these types of support before and after their partner's deployment. Dissatisfaction levels for these types of support have been stable over the past few years but remain considerably higher than those reported in 2015.

Six in ten spouses (60%) are satisfied with the lines of communication with their partner during their deployment, with two in ten (20%) dissatisfied.

RN/RM spouses report higher levels of dissatisfaction with most aspects of support before, during and after their partner's deployment

% dissatisfied with facilities and events to meet other spouses/families after their partner's deployment¹

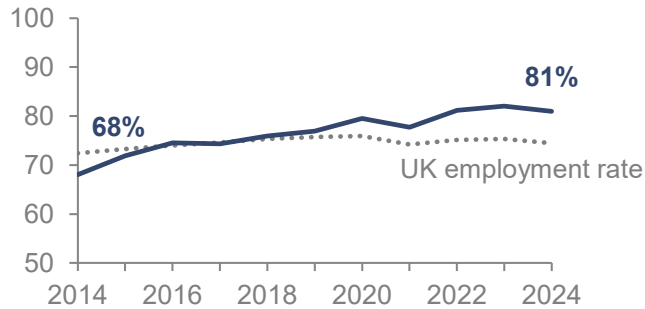


Section 9 - Employment

Section 9 provides information on employment status, experiences of looking for a job and job satisfaction. It also covers the experiences of families who accompanied their spouse overseas.

Just over four-fifths of Service spouses (81%) are employed,¹ although unchanged for the past three years this is above all rates prior to 2020

% spouses employed



National comparison

The [UK employment rate](#) for all those aged 16-64 is 74.3%.

The employment rate is slightly lower for Army Other Rank spouses (76%).

Spouse employment by type:



PP = Percentage Points

Those living outside the UK are less likely to be in employment

Less than half (43%) of spouses living outside the UK are employed, this is considerably lower than employment rates for spouses living within the UK which range from 75% to 85%.

Spouses living outside the UK are less likely to be in full-time employment (20%) and more likely to be “not employed—seeking employment” (25%) than those living in the UK.

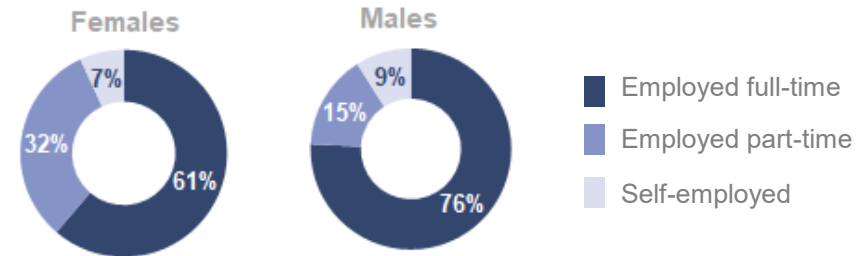
¹ Employed refers to those in full-time, part-time or self-employment

Employment differs by sex

The employment rate for female Service spouses (aged 16-64) is 81% compared to 90% for male spouses. However, this difference is no longer statistically significant when excluding dual-serving spouses.

Of those in employment, a much higher proportion of females are employed part-time than males, even after excluding dual-serving spouses.

% by employment type (excluding dual-serving spouses)²



National comparison

[UK employment rates](#) (aged 16-64) differ by sex with 72% of females being employed compared to 77% of males.

Of UK females in [employment](#), approximately 60% work full-time and about 30% work part-time. This compares to around 75% and 10% respectively for UK men in employment.

Those in full-time employment are more satisfied that their qualifications match their job (76%) than those employed part-time (60%)³

There are similar differences between satisfaction levels with their job overall and that their job matches their skills and experience. Self-employed spouses are also more satisfied than those employed part-time.

² SUBSET: Those aged 16-64 in employment but NOT dual serving (69%)

³ SUBSET: Those in full-time employment (54%) and those in part-time employment (22%)

About three in eight spouses looked for a job in the past year



This is largely unchanged since 2015. There was a decrease in 2021, most likely due to the pandemic.

Of the 38% of spouses who looked for a job, about five-eighths (62%) experienced difficulties finding suitable employment

Although unchanged since 2018, this is lower than all levels reported prior to this. Of those who looked for a job, Army Other Rank spouses were more likely to experience difficulties (68%) than those in the other Services.

Top reasons cited by those who experienced difficulties:

47% Having a spouse who is often away¹

45% Partner unable to assist with care responsibilities¹

45% Extended family live too far away to assist with childcare¹

This year the difficulty option of “The location where I live” was added, this was ranked as highly as those listed above for Army and RAF spouses.

The proportion selecting “Access to affordable and quality childcare” fell from 39% in 2023 to 30% this year.

“Being overseas with my spouse” was the most common difficulty (82%) for those living outside of the UK.

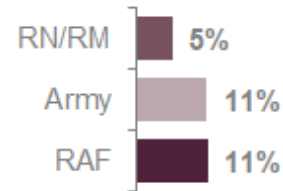
Three in five spouses would use courses to help them find or change employment if the MOD offered them, unchanged since 2021

A higher proportion of Army Other Rank spouses said they would use the courses (67%) than their counterparts in the other Services.

¹ SUBSET: Those who experienced difficulties finding suitable employment (23%).

One in ten spouses accompanied their partner overseas in the past year, although this differs by Service

% accompanied their spouse overseas



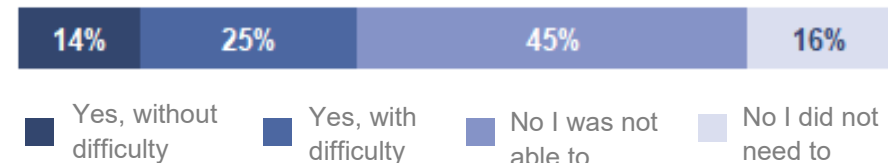
RN/RM spouses are less likely to accompany their partner overseas than Army or RAF spouses. This reflects the lower proportion of RN/RM personnel who are posted to overseas locations where it is possible to be accompanied by their spouse.

The proportion of Army spouses accompanying their partner overseas fell from a peak of 20% in 2014 to 12% in 2017. Since then, the proportion of spouses accompanying has remained largely stable for each of the Services.

Of the 9% of spouses living outside the UK, nearly three-quarters (74%) had accompanied their partner overseas in the past year.

Nearly half of spouses were unable to obtain paid employment whilst accompanying their partner overseas

% Service spouses who accompanied their partner by ability to obtain paid employment overseas²



Although unchanged since last year, the proportion unable to obtain paid employment overseas is higher than all levels reported prior to 2021.

One in four spouses (25%) were unable to access Service-provided information before accompanying their partner overseas, unchanged since 2022.

² SUBSET: Those who accompanied their partner on an overseas assignment over the past year (10%).

Section 10 - Healthcare

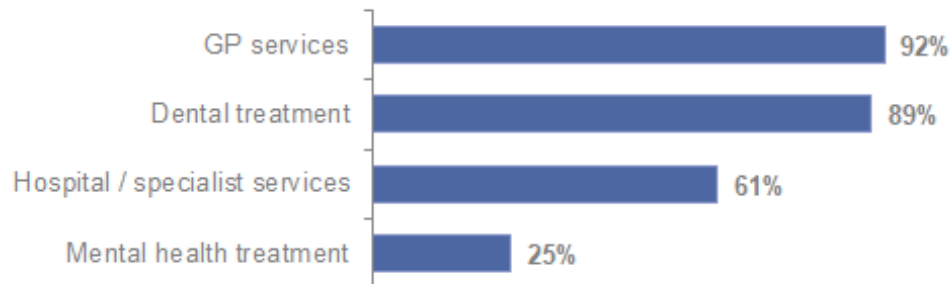
Section 10 looks at access to healthcare services for Service families.

Data Quality Note

The survey aims to measure healthcare provisions for family members not in the Armed Forces. This means, dual-serving families without children, were not asked these questions.

The proportion of families requiring access differs by type of healthcare

% required access this year



The majority of Service families required access to GP services and dental treatment over the past year.

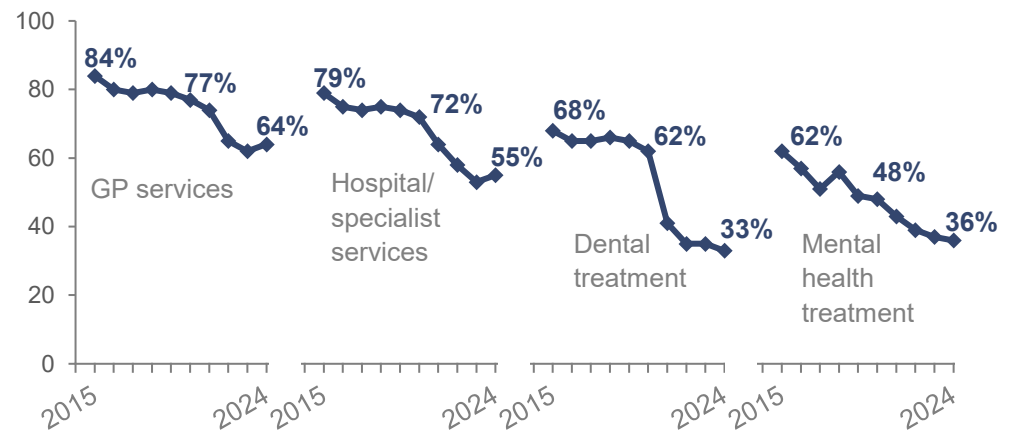
In 2021, the requirement for all types of healthcare treatment fell, likely due to COVID-19. Requirement has now returned to at least pre-pandemic levels.

Although unchanged this year, mental health requirement has been following an upward trend, increasing from 14% in 2015, when this question was first asked. A higher proportion of Other Rank families required access to mental health treatment (26%) than Officer families (20%) this year.

In accordance with the [Armed Forces Covenant](#), the Armed Forces community should enjoy the same standard of, and access to, healthcare as that received by any other UK citizen in the area they live.

Of those requiring access, the proportions of families able to access healthcare services without difficulty are lower than all levels reported prior to 2022

% able to access each healthcare service without difficulty¹



The proportions of families able to access healthcare without difficulty have decreased significantly since 2015 and fell sharply between 2020 and 2022. Although stable since 2022 access to healthcare services remains below pre-pandemic levels.

National survey findings

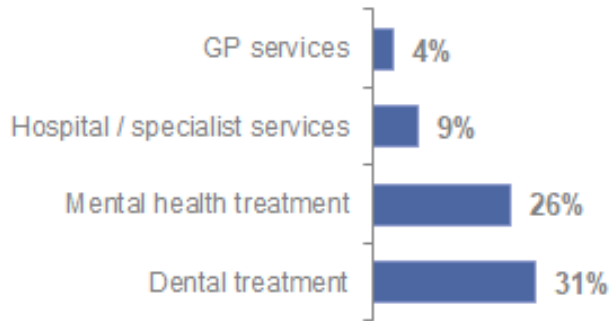
Although not directly comparable, the 2023 [GP Patient Survey](#) provides some context. The proportion of patients reporting a “good” overall experience of making a GP appointment has decreased to its lowest level in six years, falling from 68.6% in 2018 to 54.4% in 2023.

The [Dental Statistics](#) part of this survey reports that of those who tried to make an appointment in the past two years, 77% were successful, considerably lower than pre-pandemic rates (94% in 2020).

¹ SUBSET: Those who required each healthcare treatment: GP services (92%), hospital/specialist services (61%), dental treatment (89%) and mental health treatment (25%).

Of those who required treatment, more than a quarter of families were unable to access mental health treatment and over three in ten were unable to access dental treatment

% unable to access each healthcare service ¹



The proportion of families unable to access mental health or dental treatment remain far above the pre-pandemic levels reported in 2020 (17% and 13% respectively).

Of those families who required access to healthcare services, those who feel their access has been affected by COVID-19 has decreased considerably since 2021 ¹

To better understand the continued impact of COVID-19, respondents are asked about the effect on access to healthcare treatment. In 2021, 72% felt their access to dental treatment had been affected by COVID-19, this has fallen to 25% this year. Those who felt their access to other healthcare treatments was affected by COVID-19 has also fallen from around a half in 2021 to about a fifth in 2024.

A small proportion of families (7%) moved whilst on a waiting list for an operation or consultant appointment

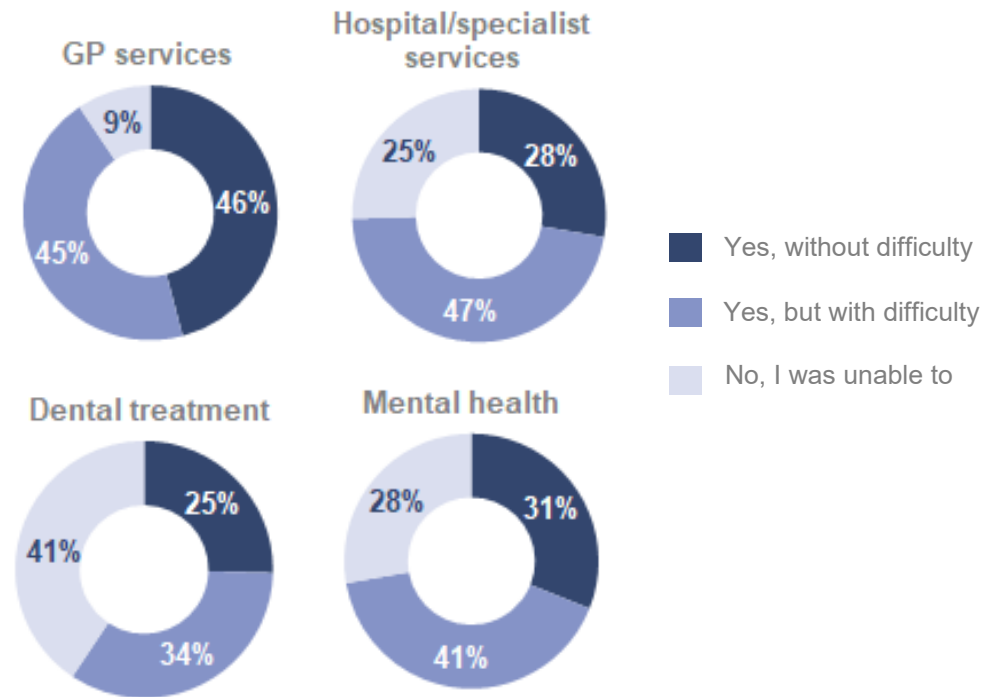
Of these families, 53% felt their waiting time had increased as a result of moving compared to 23% who felt it had not.

A small proportion of families moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatments, ranging from 3% who moved whilst undergoing mental health treatment to 10% who moved whilst undergoing treatment with their GP.

¹ SUBSET: Those who required each healthcare treatment: GP services (92%), hospital/specialist services (61%), dental treatment (89%) and mental health treatment (25%).

Less than half of families who moved whilst undergoing treatment were able to continue their treatment without difficulty

% families by ability to continue healthcare treatment following a move ²



The proportion of families able to continue hospital/specialist services without difficulty remains at its lowest reported level having fallen from 42% in 2022 to 28% in 2023.

More than two-fifths of families were unable to continue dental treatment, higher than all pre-pandemic levels.

National survey findings

The [GP Patient Survey Dental Statistics](#) reported that respondents who were new to the dental practice were much less successful in getting an NHS dental appointment (33%) compared to those who had been to the practice before (84%).

² SUBSET: Those who moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatment: GP services (10%), dental treatment (8%), hospital/specialist services (7%) and mental health treatment (3%).

Section 11 - Housing

Section 11 covers home ownership and the reasons for not owning a home. It also looks at the types of accommodation spouses live in during the working week, and how this compares to where they would prefer to live. It also reports on levels of satisfaction with Service Family Accommodation (SFA) and Substitute Service Family Accommodation (SSFA).

Nearly three-fifths (59%) own their own home

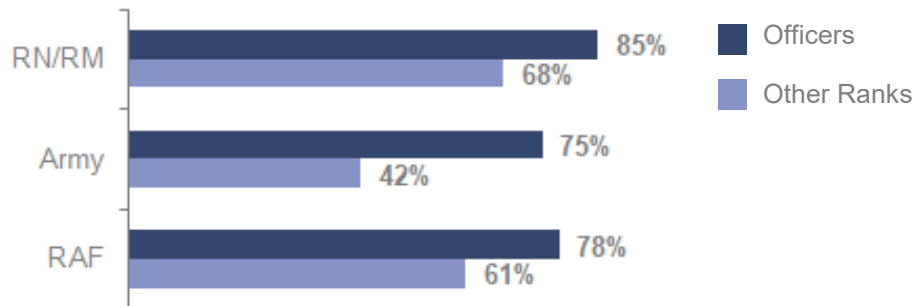
This has been relatively stable over time.

National Comparison

Although not directly comparable, the latest [English Housing Survey](#) reports that 65% of households in England were owner occupied in 2022-2023.

Home ownership differs greatly by Rank and Service

% owning their own home



Two in five families (41%) do not own a home at the moment

Of these families, the top reasons for not owning a home are:

- 61%** Cannot afford to buy a suitable home at the moment
- 43%** Living in Service accommodation is better suited to families' needs
- 34%** Want to be able to move with their spouse when they are posted
- 25%** Do not want to buy a home where they are currently located

A higher proportion of Other Rank families (63%) cited affordability as a reason for non-homeownership than Officer families (47%). The top reason for Officer spouses was wanting to be able to move with their partner (56%).

More than a third of families (36%) live in a privately owned home during the working week

This is unchanged since 2017.

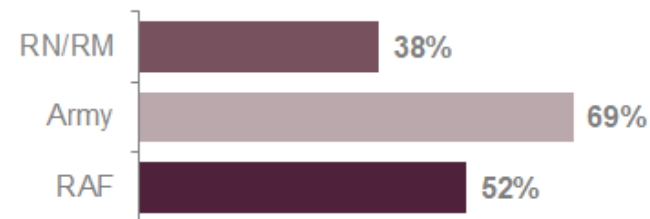


RN/RM families are more likely to live in a privately owned home (55%), followed by RAF (42%) and then Army families (26%).

Officer families are more likely to live in their own home (43%) than Other Rank families (32%).

Nearly three-fifths of families (59%) live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) during the working week, although this differs by Service

% living in SFA

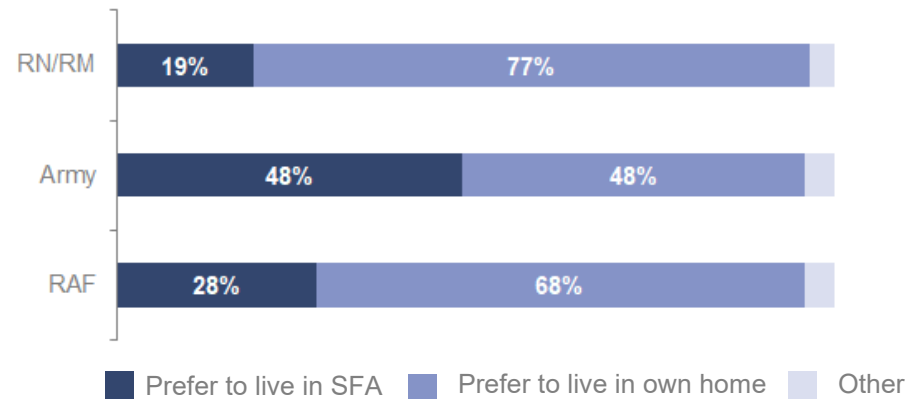


Other Rank families are more likely to live in SFA (63%) than Officer families (48%). This is largely driven by Army and RAF families as there is little difference between Officer and Other Rank RN/RM families.

Families living outside the UK are more likely to live in SFA (71%) than those living in UK locations (ranging from 33% to 59%).

Accommodation preferences differ by Service

% families by accommodation preference



A higher proportion of Army families express a preference for SFA than RN/RM or RAF families.

The proportion of families preferring to live in SFA has increased this year, up three percentage points since last year, to 38%, returning to the level reported in 2018.

Around seven in ten families (71%) are living in their preferred type of accommodation

Most of the remainder are not currently living in a privately owned home but would prefer to be (24%). These figures are largely stable over time.

Less than half of families (47%) are satisfied with the overall standard of SFA/SSFA, unchanged since 2022¹

This is considerably lower than the peak level reported in 2015 (63%).

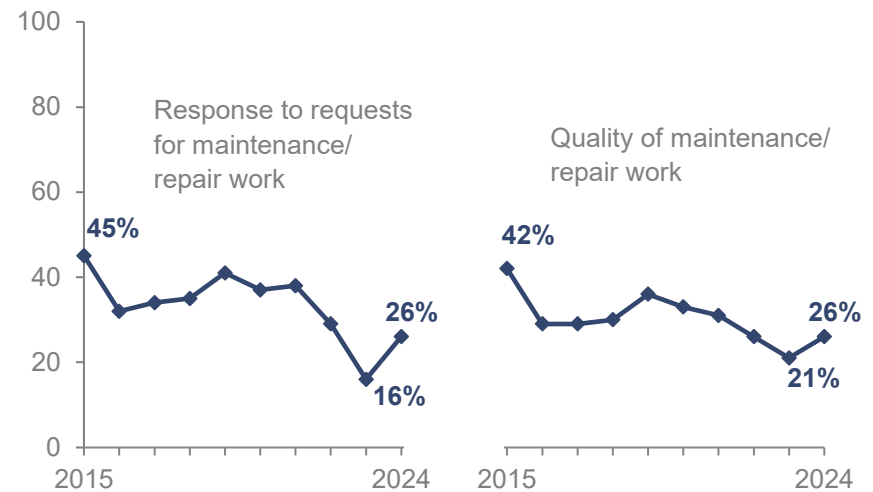
Two-thirds (66%) of families living in SFA/SSFA are satisfied with the value for money, up from 59% last year, back in line with 2022 levels.

RN/RM families are less satisfied with some aspects of SFA/SSFA compared to other Service families, namely overall standard, how fairly Service accommodation is allocated and the security of SFA/SSFA.

¹ Subset: Those who live in SFA/SSFA (60%).

Following large decreases in 2023, satisfaction with aspects of maintenance/repair of SFA/SSFA has improved this year

% satisfied with aspects of SFA/SSFA¹



In 2023, satisfaction with responses to requests for, and the quality of maintenance/repair work of SFA/SSFA fell markedly. Levels have recovered this year, up ten and five percentage points respectively.

However, levels of satisfaction remain considerably below the peak levels reported in 2015. Despite the improvements above, levels of dissatisfaction with these aspects of SFA/SSFA are still high, both 57%.

Satisfaction with most aspects of SFA/SSFA fell markedly in 2016 due, in part, to underperformance by the National Housing Prime contractor and changes to the SFA charging method in April 2016.

In April 2022, a new contract was awarded to Pinnacle Group, Amey and Vivo to provide services to SFA homes in the UK on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). DIO also reported a backlog for repairs and maintenance in December 2022. These factors may have had some impact on the 2023 results.

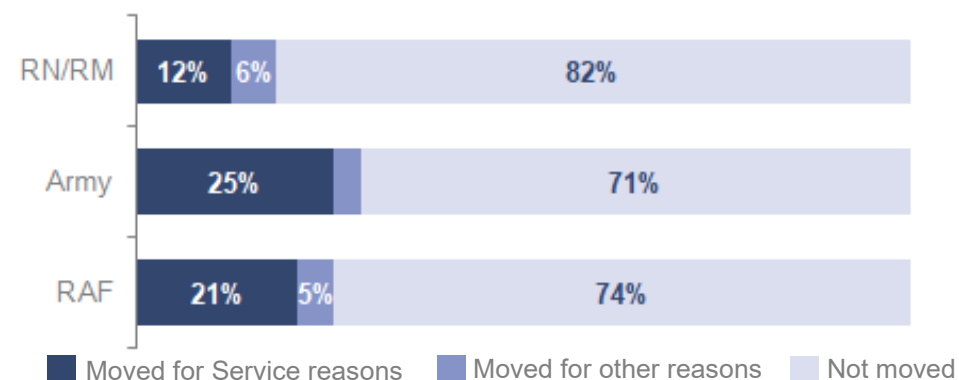
Overseas families are more satisfied with many aspects of SFA/SSFA than families living in England. For example, 77% of overseas families living in SFA/SSFA are satisfied with the value for money of their accommodation compared to 64% of families living in England.

Section 12 - Impact of Mobility

Section 12 looks at the impact of moving location on the families of Service personnel. It looks again at some of the questions from the previous sections and compares the responses of those who moved for Service reasons with those who have not moved over the last 12 months. In this section, “moved” refers to those who have moved for Service reasons. **This section compares the 22% of families who moved for Service reasons with the 74% of families who did not move.**

Just over one in five Service families moved for Service reasons over the past year, although this differs by Service

% families



Army families are the most likely to move for Service reasons, followed by RAF and then RN/RM families.

Levels of mobility have been largely stable since 2017. There was an increase in 2020, driven by Army families, due to large numbers of families moving from Germany to the UK as part of the [Army Basing Programme](#).

Families who moved are more likely to live with their Serving spouse (88%) than families who did not move (73%)

This is to be expected as many families who move for Service reasons will be accompanying their Serving partner.

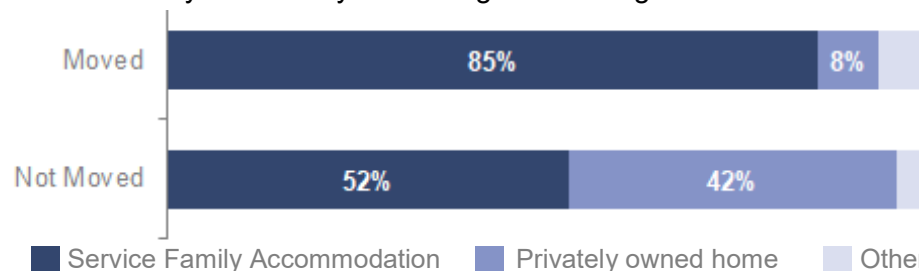
Families who moved were less likely to experience separation of three months or more (29%) than families who did not move (35%). This contributes to those who moved feeling less negative about separation (47%) than those who did not move (56%).

Spouses who moved are less likely to own a home (47%) than those who did not move (62%)

Families who moved feel more negative about the prospects of owning a home (36%) than those who did not move (25%).

The majority of spouses who moved live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) during the working week

% families by where they live during the working week



This may partly explain why those who moved feel more positive about Service provided facilities¹ (40%) than those who did not move (28%).

Families who moved express more of a preference for SFA (55%) than families who did not move (34%)

About two-fifths of families who moved (39%) would prefer to live in their own home compared to 63% of those who did not move.

Fewer families who moved are living in their preferred type of accommodation (62%) compared to families who did not move (73%). Just under a third of families who moved (32%) are not living in their own home but would prefer to be compared to 22% of families who did not move.

¹ Service provided facilities includes Service accommodation

Those who moved are less likely to be employed than those who did not move

% employed¹

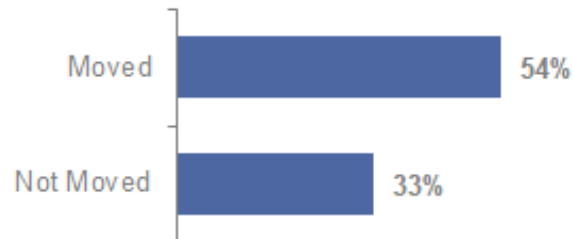


Those who moved are less likely to be in full-time employment (49%) or part-time employment (18%) than those who did not move (56% and 24% respectively).

Of those in full-time employment, those who moved were more dissatisfied with the match between their job and their skills and experience (14%) than those who did not move (9%).

Spouses who moved are more likely to have looked for a job over the past year than those who did not move

% looked for a job in the past year



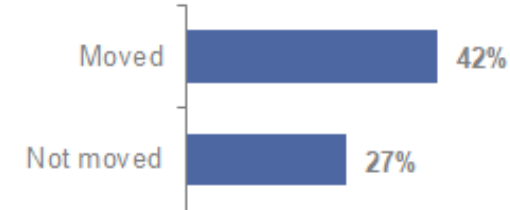
Of those who looked for a job in the past year, those who moved were more likely to experience difficulties finding suitable employment (68%) than those who did not move (59%).

These differences may be contributing factors to those who moved feeling more negative about the effect on their career (64%) compared to those who did not move (55%).

¹ Employed refers to those in full-time, part-time or self employment

Families who moved were less able to access dental treatment than those who did not move

% unable to access dental treatment if required²



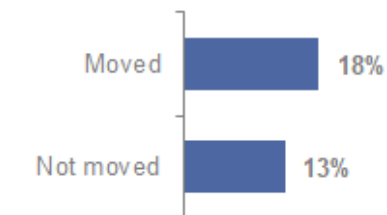
Access to NHS dentist

The [2023 dental statistics](#) stated “respondents who had not been to the practice before were much less successful in getting an NHS dental appointment.”

Of those who required hospital or specialist services³, those who moved were less able to access them without difficulties (49%) than those who did not move (57%).

Those who moved are more likely to rate the extent they feel the things they do in life are worthwhile as low than those who did not move

% rating the extent they feel the things they do in life are worthwhile as low (0 to 4 out of 10)



This year, there are no differences between the other [well-being measures](#) for those who moved compared to those who did not move.

² SUBSET: Those who required dental treatment (Moved:18% Not moved:64%)

³ SUBSET: Those who required hospital or specialist services (Moved:12% Not moved:44%)

Three-quarters of families who moved have children (75%) compared to 80% of families who did not move

Just under half of families who moved have school age children (49%) compared to 57% of families who did not move.

Of those with children, families who moved are more likely to require early years (0-4) childcare than those who did not move

% families requiring early years childcare¹



Those who moved and required early years childcare², are less satisfied with access, quality and opening hours of early years childcare than those who did not move.

There is no difference in requirement for childcare for school age children. However, those who moved are less satisfied with the availability and quality of childcare for school age children than those who did not move.

Of those with children, 54% of families who moved are unable to access any free, informal childcare³

This differs to the 42% reported by families with children who did not move.

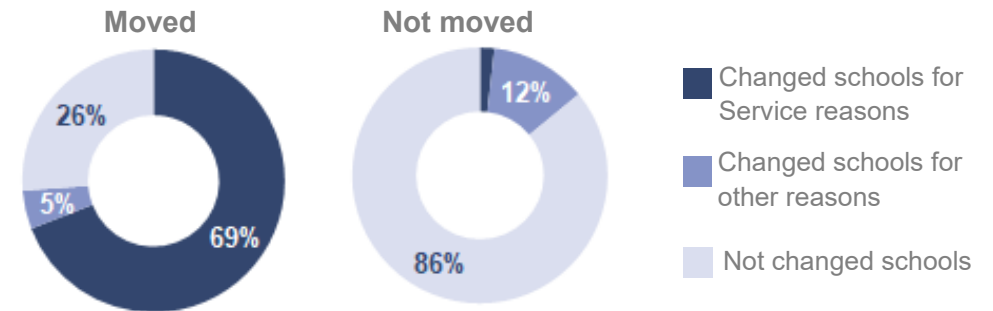
Families with school age children who moved, are less likely to have a child at a state school (68%) than those who did not move (82%)⁴

Families with school age children who moved, are more likely to have a child at an independent boarding school (21%) than those who did not move (8%). As a result, they are also more likely to be in receipt of [Continuity of Education Allowance](#) (CEA) (24% compared to 9%).

¹ SUBSET: Those with children (Moved:16% Not moved:59%)
² SUBSET: Those requiring early years childcare (Moved:6% Not moved:16%)
³ Free informal childcare such as grandparents, extended family, friends etc.
⁴ SUBSET: Those with school age children (Moved:11% Not moved:42%)

Of families who moved and had school age children, nearly seven in ten (69%) had a child change schools for Service reasons compared to just 2% for those who did not move

% families with child who changed school⁴

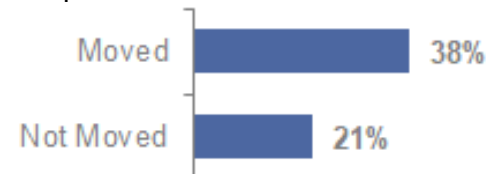


Of those families who moved and had a child who changed school⁵, just over half (52%) were able to apply within the timeframe for the normal point of entry (such as Reception or Year 7). This compares to 81% for families who did not move and had a child change school.

Of those families who moved and applied for a place at a state school,⁶ 70% were allocated their first choice; 73% were happy with their child's allocation. Similar proportions were reported for those who did not move.

Families with school age children who moved, were more likely to experience difficulties with their children's schooling than those who did not move

% experienced difficulties with their children's schooling⁴



This difference is partly due to the larger proportion of children changing school for Service reasons amongst families who have moved.

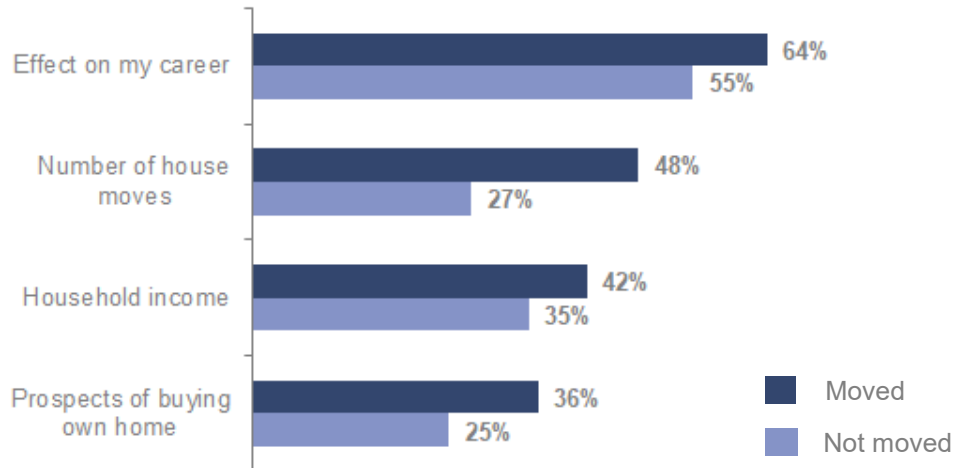
⁵ SUBSET: Those with a child who changed schools (Moved:8% Not moved: 6%)
⁶ SUBSET: Those who applied for a place at a State school (Moved:6% Not moved: 5%)

Moving home can cause upheaval for Service families, such as finding employment or changing their child's school. The previous pages show those who moved are less likely to be employed, less likely to own a home, are more likely to have difficulties with their children's education and are less satisfied with some aspects of childcare.

These challenges may explain some of the differences between views on Service family life.

Families who moved feel more negative about some aspects of Service family life than those who did not move

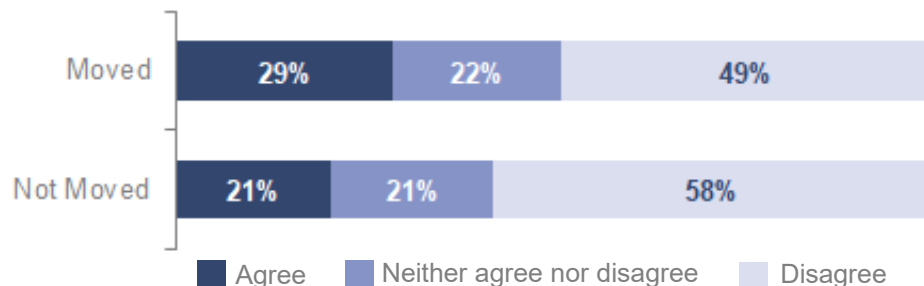
% negative about...



Families who moved also feel more disadvantaged about education and childcare.

However, families who moved are more likely to feel part of the wider Service community than those who did not move

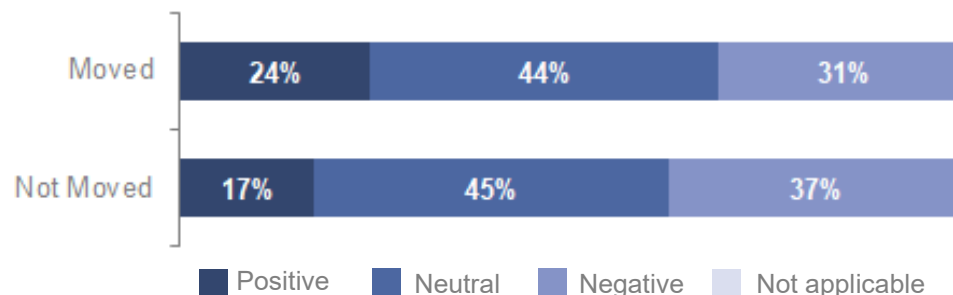
% agree/disagree they feel part of the wider Service community



Families who moved also feel more positive about community support for their family than those who did not move. This sense of community, coupled with being more likely to live with their partner may contribute to other, more positive views on Service family life.

Those who moved feel more positive about the effect of Service family life on their relationship with their spouse

% positive/negative about effect on relationship with their spouse



Those who moved are more satisfied with their quality of life as a Service family than those who did not move

% satisfied with their quality of life as a Service family.



Those who moved are more likely to agree their family benefits from being a Service family (36%) than those who did not move (28%). Families who moved also feel more advantaged about family life (15%) and more valued (18%) than those who did not move (9% and 13% respectively).

However, there is no difference in the proportion of families who would feel happier if their partner left the Service between those who moved and those who did not move.

Methodology

1. Target Population

The target population for FamCAS 2024 was the spouses/civil partners of all trained UK Regular Armed Forces personnel including Gurkhas but excluding Special Forces and those deployed or attending training courses at the time the survey sample was drawn from the Joint Personnel Administration system.

2. The survey

FamCAS was available online only this year and was in field from 7th February 2024 to 22nd April 2024.

In 2020 the RN/RM decided to remove the paper option, running an online only Families survey. For a small number of questions this change in methodology may have impacted on results. Where this is the case, footnotes or discontinuities are included in the reference tables.

The RAF moved to an online only format in 2023 followed by the Army this year. In 2022, just 21% of RAF responses were on paper, whilst in 2023 16% of Army responses were paper. As a result of the low level of paper responses, together with an increase in sample size and a well organised communications plan, both Army and RAF managed the move to an online survey very well. The RAF response rate changed very little whilst the Army response rate increased. There were no discernible impacts on results due to these changes in methodology.

E-mail invites to the online questionnaire are sent to Service personnel who are asked to forward the invite onto their spouse/civil partner. The Army and RAF also distribute postcard invites to the Serving person to pass on. The relatively long time in field is to allow time for postcard invites to reach Service personnel and enable them to pass on details of the survey to their spouse/civil partner; some may be living separately due to postings/assignments.

The survey is anonymous. Individual level data are only available to a small group of civilian researchers working on the analysis and report production and the data does not contain any identifier which can be linked back to the Service person or their spouse/civil partner.

3. The sample and respondents

The total FamCAS 2024 sample consisted of 29,139 personnel. FamCAS questionnaires were issued to Service personnel selected under a (disproportionate) stratified simple random sampling process. Samples were designed to provide sufficient responses to yield estimates with a reasonable margin of error under cost constraints. Due to low expected response rates most strata are a complete census. This year, Royal Navy/Royal Marines conducted a complete census. Table A1, below, shows the strata we can select a sample from and the corresponding level of precision¹ we aim for.

¹ Precision is based on half of a 95% confidence interval width, often referred to as the margin of error.

Table A1: Precision aimed for by strata

Strata	Precision
Army Officer England	5%
Army OR6-9 England	5%
Army OR1-4 England	5%
RAF Officer England	5%
RAF OR6-9 England	5%
RAF OR1-4 England	5%

Based on 2022 and 2023 response rates this sample design was expected to yield precisions of around 3% for each Service and 4% to 5% for each Rank group by Service. Despite conducting a census for Royal Navy and Royal Marines the margin of error for these groups are expected to be between 4% and 17%. Margins of error for each question can be found in reference tables published alongside this report on the [FamCAS](#) website.

6,046 responses were used in the FamCAS 2024 analysis, giving an overall response rate of 21%. The table below contains detailed information on the number of questionnaires issued and received along with corresponding response rates.

Table A2: Response rates by Service and rank group

		Sample size	Surveys returned	2024 response rate	2023 response rate	2022 response rate	2021 response rate
Royal Navy	Officers	3 203	590	18%	19%	22%	30%
	Ratings	5 318	484	9%	10%	11%	18%
	Total	8 521	1 074	13%	13%	15%	22%
Royal Marines	Officers	394	64	16%	15%	18%	24%
	Marines	1 228	92	7%	8%	8%	12%
	Total	1 622	156	10%	10%	10%	15%
Army	Officers	2 530	1 218	48%	37%	38%	46%
	Soldiers	7 870	1 709	22%	16%	18%	24%
	Total	10 400	2 927	28%	20%	22%	28%
Royal Air Force	Officers	2 433	743	31%	27%	31%	33%
	Enlisted Aviators	6 163	1 146	19%	18%	17%	23%
	Total	8 596	1 889	22%	20%	21%	25%
All Services	Officers	8 560	2 615	31%	26%	29%	35%
	Ranks	20 579	3 431	17%	15%	15%	21%
	Total	29 139	6 046	21%	18%	18%	25%

Note that percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole % for ease of interpretation.

4. Weighting methodology and non-response

Due to the sample design and the differences in prevalence of non-response between the Service, rank and location strata, the distribution of characteristics amongst the FamCAS respondents did not reflect the distribution in the whole Armed Forces spouse/civil partner population. Response rates tend to vary by strata; therefore, responses are weighted by Service, rank and broad location to correct for the bias caused by over or under-representation.

The weights were calculated simply by:

Population size within weighting class (p)

Number of responses within weighting class (r)

Weighting in this way assumes missing data are missing at random (MAR) only within weighting classes. This means we assume that within a single weighting class the views of non-respondents do not differ (on average) to the views of respondents.

The results for each respondent within each weighting class are multiplied by the weight for that class. This effectively scales up response to the population size. Classes with larger weights are less represented in the data and so need to be scaled up more.

Table A3: Weightings used for FamCAS 2024 analysis

Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied
RN_OF5+_Eng	5.35	Army_OF5+_Eng	6.24	RAF_OF5+_Eng	4.65
RN_OF5+_NonUK	3.50	Army_OF5+_NonUK	2.93	RAF_OF5+_NonUK	3.31
RN_OF1-4_Eng	5.40	Army_OF1-4_Eng	8.08	RAF_OF1-4_Eng	6.97
RN_OF1-4_NonUK	7.30	Army_OF1-4_NonUK	3.14	RAF_OF1-4_Cyp	2.70
RN_OR6-9_Eng	9.72	Army_OR6-9_Eng	17.66	RAF_OF1-4_NonUK	5.29
RN_OR6-9_Scot	11.67	Army_OR6-9_NI	4.94	RAF_OR6-9_Eng	8.30
RN_OR6-9_NonUK	9.07	Army_OR6-9_Scot	4.60	RAF_OR6-9_Scot	5.97
RN_OR3-4_Eng	15.63	Army_OR6-9_Wales	4.74	RAF_OR6-9_Cyp	4.53
RN_OR1-2_Eng	16.86	Army_OR6-9_Cyp	3.57	RAF_OR6-9_NonUK	5.84
RN_OF1+_Scot	5.89	Army_OR6-9_Ger	3.13	RAF_OR3-4_Eng	7.60
RN_OR6-9_NI_Wales	11.38	Army_OR6-9_NonUK	4.71	RAF_OR1-2_Eng	8.92
RN_OF1+_NI_Wales	5.64	Army_OR3-4_Eng	17.16	RAF_OF1+_Scot	4.10
RN_OR1-4_Scot_Wales_NonUK	11.23	Army_OR1-2_Eng	31.90	RAF_OF1-4_NI_Wales	6.45
RM_OR6-9_Eng	17.52	Army_OF1+_NI	2.97	RAF_OR6-9_NI_Wales	6.60
RM_OF1+_Eng	8.91	Army_OF1+_Scot	2.65	RAF_OR1-4_Cyp_NonUK	6.96
RM_OR1-4_Eng	17.30	Army_OF1+_Wales	3.84	RAF_OR1-4_NI_Scot_Wales	8.04
RM_OF1+_Scot_Wales_NonUK	4.18	Army_OF1+_Cyp	2.39		
RM_OR3-9_Scot_Wales_NonUK	9.86	Army_OF1+_Ger	2.00		
		Army_OR1-4_NI	16.25		
		Army_OR1-4_Scot	7.45		
		Army_OR1-4_Wales	6.58		
		Army_OR1-4_Cyp	6.28		
		Army_OR1-4_Ger	3.18		
		Army_OR1-4_NonUK	29.68		

5. Analysis and statistical tests

Attitudinal questions in the questionnaires have generally been regrouped to assist in analysing results and to aid interpretation. For example, questions asked at a 5-point level (e.g., Very satisfied – Satisfied – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied – Dissatisfied – Very dissatisfied) have been regrouped to a 3-point level (e.g. (Satisfied – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied – Dissatisfied)).

Missing values, where respondents have not provided a response/valid response, or 'don't know' or 'not applicable' responses have not always been included in the analysis. If they have been excluded, then this will be detailed in table footnotes.

Some questions are filtered to exclude invalid responses. For example, questions about children's schooling will be subset to those respondents with school age children. These "subsets" are detailed in table footnotes. As a result of these exclusions the unweighted counts (or 'n') will vary from question to question and these are shown within the reference tables published alongside this report on the [FamCAS](#) webpage.

Estimated proportions are rounded to the nearest whole number, as a result they will not always sum to 100%. Similarly, percentages shown on charts within the report may not always sum to 100%. Any combined results are summed from unrounded values. As such, combined results may not always correspond with sums from published tables.

Where applicable, Z tests at a 1% alpha level were used to test whether observed estimates were significantly different to estimates from previous surveys. A statistically significant difference means that there is enough evidence that the change observed is unlikely to be due to chance variation (less than a 1% probability that the difference is the result of chance alone).

6. Format of the reference tables (published separately to the report on the [FamCAS](#) webpage)

Each reference table refers to a question asked in the survey and includes estimates of the proportion of the population by category. Each table is broken down by Service and by Officer/Other Rank with the total column referring to the Officers and Other Ranks results combined.

Excel tables are also available with additional breakdown of the spouse/civil partners broad location (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales & Non-UK), which are provided at Annex C.

Section 9 of Annex B provides a subset of tables that compare results of those who moved for Service reasons over the past year against those who did not move. These tables are broken down by Service.

Glossary

Term	Description
AFCAS	The Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey.
Armed Forces Covenant	The Armed Forces Covenant defines the principles for ensuring that Armed Forces personnel are not disadvantaged in their access to public and commercial services as a result of their service. It also sets out that in some cases special treatment may be appropriate, for example for those that have given the most, such as the injured and the bereaved.
CEA	Continuity of education allowance. This is offered by the MOD to provide children with the continuity in their education.
HIVE	Service information hub which assists personnel in a wide variety of topics affecting their everyday Service and personal life
JPA	Joint Personnel Administration - JPA is the system used by the Armed Forces to deal with matters of pay, leave and other personal administrative tasks
Married	Refers to those married or in a civil partnership
Marines	RM personnel of NATO ranks OR1 to OR9
Missing at Random (MAR)	Statistical theory that states that those who did not respond to a question do not differ from those who did respond
Missing value(s)	Refers to the situation where a respondent has not submitted an answer or a valid answer to a question
MAO	Modernised Accommodation Offer. Previously New Accommodation Offer. Proposed new accommodation policy advertised whilst FamCAS 2024 was in field. Currently paused for further review.
MOD	Ministry of Defence
N/A	Not applicable
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
Non-response	Refers either to a person who although sampled and sent a questionnaire did not reply or to a respondent who did not reply to a question
OF	Officer of NATO rank designation ranking from '1' lowest to '10' highest
Officer(s)	All regular trained officers of NATO rank OF1 to OF10
OR	Other Ranks of NATO rank designation ranking from 'OR1' lowest to 'OR9' highest
Other Rank(s)	Other Ranks are members of the Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force who are not Officers. The equivalent group in the Royal Navy is known as "Ratings".
RAF	Royal Air Force
RM	Royal Marines
RN	Royal Navy
Service Accommodation	Any type of accommodation that includes 'SFA', 'SSFA', 'SLA', 'SSSA' and 'Onboard a ship or submarine'
Service(s)	Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and RAF
Service spouse	Within this report this term refers to the spouse or civil partner of a Regular trained member of the Armed Forces.

Term	Description
SFA	Service Family Accommodation
SLA	Single Living Accommodation
SNCO	Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NATO ranks OR6 to OR9)
Soldiers	Army personnel of NATO ranks OR1 to OR9
Spouse	Within this report this refers to both spouses and civil partners
SSFA	Substitute Service Family Accommodation
SSSA	Substitute single Service Accommodation. Formerly Substitute Single Living Accommodation (SSLA)
Standard Error	A measure derived using weighting factors from the sample proportion and unweighted count in a sampling distribution and used as a benchmark in order to ascertain a range of values within which the true population proportion could lie
Statistically significant	Refers to the result of a statistical test in which there is evidence of a difference between estimates
Statistical tests	Refers to those tests which are carried out to see if any evidence exists for a change in response proportions from one year to another
Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR)	In the context of the Services, refers to a Review of what needed to be done to restructure and rescale the size of the Armed Forces to meet future Defence requirements of the UK's national security.
Trained strength	Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 Training includes all new entry training to provide basic military skills. • Phase 2 Training includes initial individual specialisation, sub-specialisation and technical training following Phase 1 training prior to joining the trained strength.
Unit	A sub-organisation of the Service in which personnel are employed
Unweighted count	Refers to the actual number who provided a valid response to a question in the survey
Weighting (factors)	Refers to factors that are applied to the respondent data set by Service and rank group to make respondent Service rank groups representative of their population equivalents
Weighting class	Refers to those members of a specific rank group to whom a weighting factor is applied
X-Factor	Additional payment to Armed Forces personnel to compensate for differences in lifestyle, working conditions and expectations compared to civilian equivalents
z test	Statistical test based on a standardised distribution which allows comparison between years for populations of different sizes

Further Information

Contact Us

Defence Statistics welcomes feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

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