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Ref: Army/PolSec/WF/M/FOI2024/05155

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19 April 2024

Dear Charlie Mackintosh,

Thank you for your email of 24 March 2024 in which you requested the following information:

“According to figures released by the Ministry of Defence this year, the British Army has just above 75,000 regular servicemen and women. I would like to request the following more specific information:

- 1. How many fighting-fit regular servicemen and women are there in the Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery regiments of the British Army? i.e. How many Officers, NCOs, and men are employed in combat roles in the infantry, cavalry, and artillery, in a regular capacity? This figure should not include individuals employed as doctors, chaplains, in logistics, or as engineers etc. If you could do a breakdown of numbers for each of the three roles, I would be grateful.*
- 2. How many regular servicemen and women are employed in supporting combat roles e.g. doctors, chaplains, logistics, engineers, police etc.?*
- 3. How many regular servicemen and women are employed in non-combat roles e.g. musicians, lawyers, administrators?*
- 4. If you could possibly also provide the relative percentages of regular army employed in the above three categories, I would be very grateful.”*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held and can be found below.

The MOD has interpreted the term ‘fighting-fit’ in relation to Question 1 to mean the Trade Trained Regular Service Personnel in the Combat Forces. Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), I should explain that this definition is reflected in our total figure in the table. This figure does not include the Untrained Regular Service

Personnel, which may therefore explain the difference with the figure that you provided in your request.

Table 1. Trade Trained Regular Army Personnel by Arm / Service, as at 1 January 2024.

| Arm / Service | Total | Proportion of Regular Army |
|--|---------------|----------------------------|
| Total | 69,188 | |
| Combat Forces | 21,554 | 31.2% |
| Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps | 4,222 | 6.1% |
| Infantry | 15,863 | 22.9% |
| Army Air Corps | 1,469 | 2.1% |
| Combat Support Forces | 19,765 | 28.6% |
| Royal Regiment of Artillery | 5,139 | 7.4% |
| Corps of Royal Engineers | 7,391 | 10.7% |
| Royal Corps of Signals | 5,545 | 8.0% |
| Intelligence Corps | 1,690 | 2.4% |
| Combat Service Support | 19,507 | 28.2% |
| The Royal Logistic Corps | 9,127 | 13.2% |
| Royal Army Medical Corps | 2,981 | 4.3% |
| Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers | 7,399 | 10.7% |
| Other Services | 7,406 | 10.7% |
| Royal Army Chaplains' Department | 124 | 0.2% |
| Adjutant General's Corps, Staff & Personnel Support | 2,850 | 4.1% |
| Adjutant General's Corps, Royal Military Police | 1,200 | 1.7% |
| Adjutant General's Corps, Military Provost Staff | 138 | 0.2% |
| Adjutant General's Corps, Educational and Training | 306 | 0.4% |
| Adjutant General's Corps, Army Legal Services Branch | 95 | 0.1% |
| Royal Army Veterinary Corps | 356 | 0.5% |
| Small Arms School Corps | 143 | 0.2% |
| Royal Army Dental Corps | 160 | 0.2% |
| Royal Army Physical Training Corps | 450 | 0.7% |
| Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps | 949 | 1.4% |
| Royal Corps of Army Music | 635 | 0.9% |
| Staff | 712 | 1.0% |
| Senior Soldier Continuity Posts | 244 | 0.4% |

Source: Analysis (Army)

Notes/Caveats to Table 1.

1. The figures are for the Trade Trained Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, Army Reserve and all other Reserves, but includes those personnel that have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.
2. Figures include personnel regardless of their Medical Deployability Standard. This includes personnel who are Medically Non-deployable.
3. Figures include both male and female Service Personnel.
4. Figures include both Officers and Other ranks.
5. All Officers of Paid Rank Colonel and above are included in Staff regardless of late Arm/Service.

6. Other Ranks serving in Senior Soldier Continuity Posts are identified as such, regardless of late Arm/Service.
7. Figures represent personnel's Arm/Service, regardless of the Unit they are serving in.
8. Historically, Ground Close Combat (GCC) roles consisted only of male personnel. In July 2016, the exclusion of females in GCC roles was lifted, and Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps was opened to females from 1 November 2016, and Infantry from the 25 October 2018 for transfers and 1 April 2019 for new recruits.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Army Policy & Secretariat