



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

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Ref: FOI2021 / 00560

08 February 2021

Mr William Hearnshaw
[request-719068-
6aa051fb@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-719068-6aa051fb@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Hearnshaw,

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

"I would like to request the following information about Padres/Religious Ministers employed by the MOD or working within the MOD.

How many are there at each Pay Scale?

ie how many Padres does the British Army employ at each rank, and the same for RAF, RN and Strategic Command (if employed separately from the single service Chaplaincy organisations)"

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

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

However, in order to protect personal information governed by the Data Protection Act 1998, Section 40(2) of the FOI Act has been applied to some of the information by supplementing numbers less than 5 with a tilde (~). Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Please see below the rounded figures for the Number of UK Regular Chaplains by Service and NATO Rank as at 1 October 2020.

All Services	260
OF-2	40
OF-3	110
OF-4	90
OF-5	10
OF-6	~
OF-7	~

RN/RM	70
OF-4	60
OF-6	~
OF-7	~
Army	130
OF-2	30
OF-3	80
OF-4	20
OF-5	~
OF-6	~
OF-7	~
RAF	60
OF-2	10
OF-3	30
OF-4	10
OF-5	~
OF-7	~

Caveats

1. UK Regulars are full-time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, excluding Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guarding Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), and Non-Regular Permanent Service (NRPS).

2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, with numbers ending in '5' rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)