



Ministry
of Defence

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Mr Sulyman Bah

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11 March 2015

Dear Mr Bah

Thank you for your email of 16 February where you clarified your earlier request (FOI2015/01537) for the following information:

I would like to know the number of Commonwealth citizens recruited into the British Army. I am therefore soliciting the following information:

1. How many have been recruited into the British Army from 2010 to 2015? This is for both Regulars and Territorial Army.
2. The number of soldiers from each Commonwealth country and a breakdown by country of their various ranks in the army? This is related to Regulars, Army Reserves, Soldiers and Officers.
3. A breakdown by country of regular Soldiers, Officers and Territorial Soldiers? I will appreciate data Army Regular Officers and Army Reserve Soldiers
4. A breakdown on how many are still in active service? This is for Regulars and Reserves.
5. A breakdown by country of how many died in combat operations? This is related to Regulars and Reservists on war operations

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested in relation to Questions 2 and 3 is contained in the attached spreadsheet – Annex A. The remainder of the information is attached in Annex B including explanatory notes about the data provided.

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If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat

Question 1

Between 1 April 2010 and 1 January 2016, 2880 personnel with a recorded Commonwealth nationality on intake, joined the Army.

Question 4

2180 personnel from the cohort in Question 1 remain on Strength as at 1 January 2016. This figure includes those who may have changed their nationality since they joined, or transferred between the Regular and Reserves (formerly known as the Territorial Army).

Question 5

One person in the cohort from Question 1 was killed in operations (Op Herrick). The data provided does not include people that joined the Regular or Reserve forces prior to 1 April 2010.

Notes:

The data in Annex A has been rounded to the nearest 5.

For questions 1 and 4, the data has been rounded to 10.

~ Less than 5

- Zero

Rounding is necessary as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity, it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users.

Fiji was suspended from the Commonwealth 1 September 2009. This suspension was lifted 26 September 2014. For the purpose of this data, Fiji has been included in the Intake figures for the whole time period they have also been included in the Strength figures.

On 3 October 2013 Gambia announced its withdrawal from the Commonwealth. An Act of Parliament is required to affect the status of its citizens if a country withdraws from the Commonwealth. For the purpose of this information Gambia is included in Commonwealth.

Zimbabwe was suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth in February 2002. Zimbabwe withdrew from the Commonwealth on 7 December 2003 after the suspension was renewed at the Commonwealth Leaders' meeting. An Act of Parliament is required to affect the status of its citizens if a country withdraws from the Commonwealth. For the purpose of this information Zimbabwe is included in Commonwealth.

Reserves figures include personnel from the following populations – Full Time Reserve Service Full Commitment, Home Commitment and Limited Commitment, High Readiness Reserve, Mobilised Other, Mobilised Regular Reserve, Mobilised TA, Non Regular Permanent Staff, Sponsored Reserve, Volunteer Reserve and Officer Training Corps and therefore may differ from the Army 2020 definition.