



Ministry  
of Defence

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**Rex Young**

[request-251559-f83de567@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-251559-f83de567@whatdotheyknow.com)

Date: 2 March 2015

Dear Rex Young,

Thank you for your email of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 requesting the following information:

- ***The number of Colonels or their equivalent ranks:-***
  - ***Royal Navy (Full time Regular) currently serving.(Captains, Commodores, Rear Admirals, Vice Admirals, Admirals, Admirals of the Fleet)Please also disclose the number of Spare Time Reserve officers.***
  - ***Royal Marines (Full time Regular) (Colonel, Brigadier, Major General) Please also disclose the number of Spare Time Reserve Officers***
  - ***Army (Full Time Regular)(Colonels, Brigadiers, Major Generals, Lt Generals, Generals, Field Marshals)Please also disclose the number of Spare Time Reserve Officers***
  - ***Royal Air Force (Full Time Regular) (Group Captain, Air Vice Marshal, Air Marshal, Air Chief Marshal, Marshal RAF)Please also disclose the number of Spare Time Reserve Officers***
  - ***Please also list the number of Nursing Sisters (Full Time Regular) in each of the three services of Colonel or equivalent rank and abov. Please disclose the number of Spare Time Reserve Officers***

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

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested. Please find enclosed the information you requested overleaf.

## UK Regular Forces<sup>1</sup> Officer Personnel, by NATO Rank equivalents<sup>2</sup> (OF-5 and above) as at 1 January 2015

	UK Regulars	Royal Navy	<i>Of which: QARNNS<sup>3</sup></i>	Royal Marines	Army	<i>Of which: QARANC<sup>4</sup></i>	RAF	<i>Of which: Nursing Officers</i>
<b>OF-5 and above</b>	<b>1520</b>	<b>340</b>	~	<b>50</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>410</b>	~
OF-9	8	1	-	-	5	-	2	-
OF-8	27	7	-	3	9	-	8	-
OF-7	107	30	-	2	47	-	28	-
OF-6	307	64	-	13	150	-	80	-
OF-5	1070	240	~	30	510	10	290	~

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

1. UK Regular Forces comprise all Full-time personnel, trained and untrained, but excluding Gurkhas and mobilised Full-time Reserve Service personnel.
2. OF-9 is equivalent to Admiral, General and Air Chief Marshal  
OF-8 is equivalent to Vice Admiral, Lieutenant General and Air Marshal  
OF-7 is equivalent to Rear Admiral, Major General and Air Vice-Marshal  
OF-6 is equivalent to Commodore, Brigadier and Air Commodore  
OF-5 is equivalent to Captain, Colonel and Group Captain
3. Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service
4. Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps

Where rounding has been applied figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Additionally, totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

- zero
- ~ five or less

Strengths for senior officers (OF-6 - OF-9) have been left unrounded; this is presented in line with how rank information is presented in the Annual Personnel Report;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-annual-manning-statistics-index>

## Volunteer Reserve<sup>1</sup> Officer Personnel, by NATO Rank equivalents<sup>2</sup> (OF-5 and above) as at 1 January 2015

	<b>Volunteer Reserve</b>	<b>Maritime Reserve</b>	<i>Of which: QARNNS<sup>3</sup></i>	<b>Army Reserve</b>	<i>Of which: QARANC<sup>4</sup></i>	<b>RAF Reserves</b>	<i>Of which: Nursing Officers</i>
<b>OF-5 and above</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>
OF-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OF-8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OF-7	<b>5</b>	-	-	5	-	-	-
OF-6	<b>24</b>	-	-	13	-	11	-
OF-5	<b>120</b>	20	-	100	10	~	-

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

1. Volunteer Reserves population includes mobilised volunteer reserves, High Readiness Reserve, those volunteer reserves serving on Additional Duties Commitment and Full Time Reserve Service. In the Army it also includes Non-Regular Permanent Staff. Sponsored Reserves and University Officer Cadets are excluded.
2. OF-9 is equivalent to Admiral, General and Air Chief Marshal  
OF-8 is equivalent to Vice Admiral, Lieutenant General and Air Marshal  
OF-7 is equivalent to Rear Admiral, Major General and Air Vice-Marshal  
OF-6 is equivalent to Commodore, Brigadier and Air Commodore  
OF-5 is equivalent to Captain, Colonel and Group Captain
3. Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service
4. Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps

Where rounding has been applied figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Additionally, totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

- zero

~ five or less

Strengths for senior officers (OF-6 - OF-9) have been left unrounded; this is presented in line with how rank information is presented in the Annual Personnel Report;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-annual-manning-statistics-index>

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Military Personnel** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing [xx@xxx.xx](mailto:xx@xxx.xx)

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri Service)