



## BRIEFING PAPER

Number CBP7930, 21 November 2017

# UK Defence Personnel Statistics

By Noel Dempsey

### Contents:

1. Understanding military personnel statistics
2. UK Armed Forces
3. UK Regular Forces
4. UK Regular Forces Diversity
5. UK Regular Forces: Inflow/outflow
6. Future Reserves 2020



# Contents

<b>1. Understanding military personnel statistics</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. UK Armed Forces</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Overall strength	5
2.2 Trained strength	5
Operational Pinch Points	8
<b>3. UK Regular Forces</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4. UK Regular Forces Diversity</b>	<b>10</b>
4.1 Gender	10
4.2 Age	11
4.3 Ethnicity	12
<b>5. UK Regular Forces: Inflow/outflow</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>6. Future Reserves 2020</b>	<b>15</b>

Data contained in the Appendix of this paper can be downloaded as an Excel file via:  
<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7930>

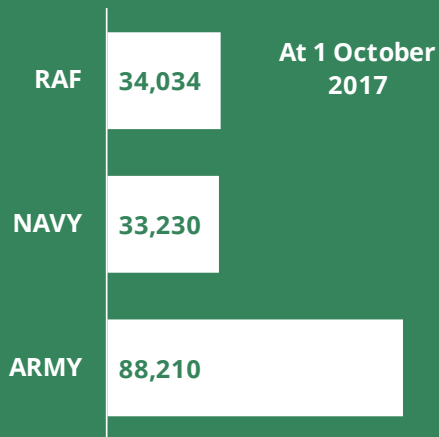
A full glossary of terms and abbreviations used in this paper are available via:  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/569187/Tri-Service\\_Glossary\\_-\\_Nov16.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/569187/Tri-Service_Glossary_-_Nov16.pdf)

Cover page image copyright: *Soldiers from 1 Rifles on Patrol in Afghanistan* attributed to [Jonathan Chandler \(Defence Images\)](#) – licenced under Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial 2.0 Generic, image cropped

# UK Defence Personnel: summary

## UK ARMED FORCES

Full time trained and untrained



**At 1 October 2017 the total strength of the full time trained and untrained UK Armed Forces was 155,474.**

57% of personnel were serving within the Army. The Navy and RAF each had around one fifth of the total personnel.

In total there were 29,000 Officers and 126,000 personnel with Other

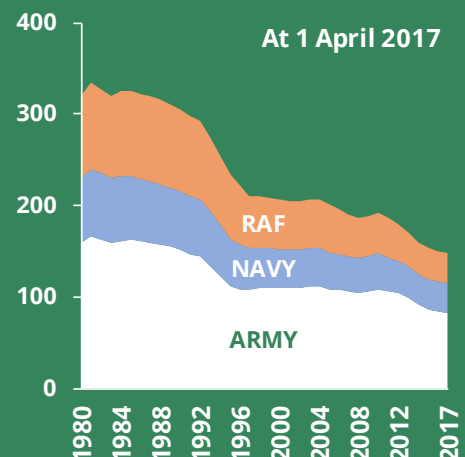
**At 1 October 2017 the total strength of the full time trained and untrained UK Regular Forces was 147,525.**

At 1 April 2017 the size of the UK Regular Forces was around 50% smaller than in 1980.

The RAF has had the largest decrease since 1980 (63%).

## UK REGULAR FORCES

Full time trained and untrained, thousands



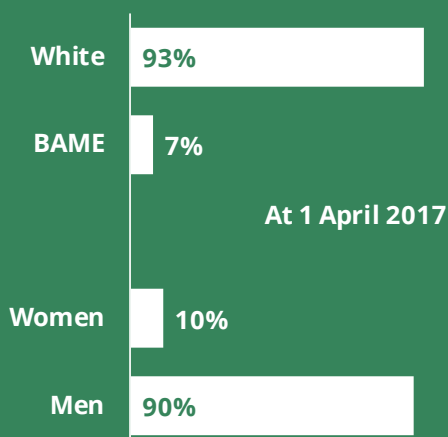
**At 1 April 2017 there were 15,270 women (10.2%) and 10,680 (7.2%) BAME personnel within the UK Regular Forces.**

The RAF had the highest share of women, and the Army the highest share of BAME personnel.

Just under half of all UK Regular personnel were under the age of 30.

## GENDER AND ETHNICITY

UK Reg Forces, full time trained and untrained



# 1. Understanding military personnel statistics

There are three main ways to measure the number<sup>1</sup> of military service personnel. This can be either through the total full-time UK Armed Forces, total full-time UK Regular Forces, or total trained full-time UK Armed Forces.

**Total full-time UK Armed Forces** is the most comprehensive of the three measures. It comprises trained and untrained:

**UK Regular Forces:** full time service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service, Locally Engaged Personnel, and Non-Regular Permanent Staff.

**Gurkhas:** individuals recruited and employed in the British and Indian Armies under the terms of the 1947 Tri-Partite Agreement. They remain Nepalese citizens whilst serving within the Brigade of Gurkhas but in all other respects are full members of HM Forces. Since 2007, Gurkhas are entitled to transfer to the wider Army after completion of 5 years' service in the Brigade of Gurkhas and apply for British citizenship.

**Full-Time Reserve Service (FTRS):** personnel who fill Service posts for a set period on a full-time basis (this is different from mobilisation) while being a member of one of the Reserve Forces, either as an ex-Regular or as a volunteer. An FTRS can be on one of three different levels of commitment (Full, Limited, or Home).

**Trained strength** comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and Phase 2 training (Trained strength for the Naval and RAF Services and Trade Trained for the Army after 1 October 2016):

**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.

## Changes to Trained Strength

On 29 June 2016, the MOD announced that the Army planned to use Regular and Reserve Phase 1 trained personnel in response to crises within the UK. Following this, the term 'Trained Strength' would include all Army personnel trained in the core function of their service (Phase 1 training).

From 1 October 2016 Army personnel who completed Phase 1 training, but not Phase 2 training, were considered trained personnel. The Naval and RAF Services (along with their Reserve services) were not affected by this change.<sup>2</sup>

Army personnel who have completed Phase 2 training are called 'Trade Trained'. This population aligns with the old definition of trained personnel and maintains the continuity of statistical time series. MOD statistical bulletins continue to show figures on those that are 'Trade Trained' (except for Army reserves where 'Trade Trained' figures are not provided after 1 October 2016).

The Trained strength of the Naval and RAF Services and the Trade Trained strength of the Army Services (Trained for the Army reserve) is what is counted against the liability and the SDSR target for 2020.

<sup>1</sup> This is usually called the strength.

<sup>2</sup> MOD, [UK Armed Forces Monthly Service Personnel Statistics: July 2017](#), p. 3.

## 2. UK Armed Forces

### 2.1 Overall strength

The table below shows that the total strength of the full-time UK Armed Forces at 1 October 2017 was 155,474.

The majority of personnel were within the Army Service (56.7%) with the remainder being in the Naval and RAF Services (21.4% and 21.9% respectively).

<b>UK ARMED FORCES STRENGTH</b>			
Full time trained and untrained personnel at 1 October 2017			
	Officers	Other Ranks	All ranks
<b>Army Service</b>	<b>14,261</b>	<b>73,949</b>	<b>88,210</b>
UK Regular Forces	12,973	69,234	82,207
Gurkhas	116	2,820	2,936
Full Time Reserve Service	1,172	1,895	3,067
<b>Naval Service</b>	<b>7,098</b>	<b>26,132</b>	<b>33,230</b>
UK Regular Forces	6,860	25,567	32,427
Full Time Reserve Service	238	565	803
<b>RAF Service</b>	<b>7,924</b>	<b>26,110</b>	<b>34,034</b>
UK Regular Forces	7,465	25,426	32,891
Full Time Reserve Service	459	684	1,143
<b>All services</b>	<b>29,283</b>	<b>126,191</b>	<b>155,474</b>
UK Regular Forces	27,298	120,227	147,525
Gurkhas	116	2,820	2,936
Full Time Reserve Service	1,869	3,144	5,013

Note: constituent parts may not sum due to rounding. Source: MOD, [UK Armed Forces Monthly Service Personnel Statistics: October 2017](#), table 3b.

Across all services there were 29,283 Officers (18.8%) and 126,191 personnel with other ranks (81.2%).

There were similar proportions within the UK Regular Forces as a whole, although this varied across the three services. Within the Army 15.8% of UK Regular personnel held an Officer rank compared to 21.2% of personnel in the Navy and 22.7% in the RAF.

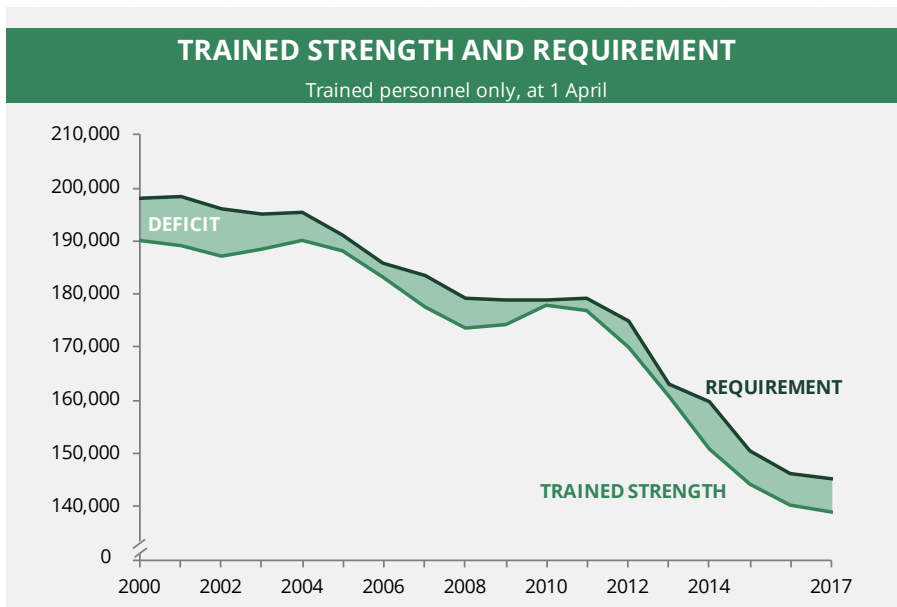
### 2.2 Trained strength

The strength of each service is in part determined by the requirements set in the Defence Planning Round for each of three services. The requirement is calculated on the basis of the full time trained strength of the UK Armed Forces.

The main factors which affect decisions about the size requirements for each service in their ability to be successful in military tasks include:

**Equipment:** changes in technology, the introduction of new equipment and restructuring that leads to equipment becoming obsolete or surplus to requirements;

**Operations:** the type of ongoing operations that are being conducted and the development of emerging threats.<sup>3</sup>



Source: Appendix 1.

The chart above shows the trend in the total trained strength against the requirement for the UK Armed Forces.

At the 1 April 2000 the trained requirement for the UK Armed Forces was 198,160 personnel, however the actual trained strength was 190,270 (a deficit of 7,880). The requirement level needed as at 1 April 2017 was 145,000 (a drop of 26.2% compared to 1 April 2000).

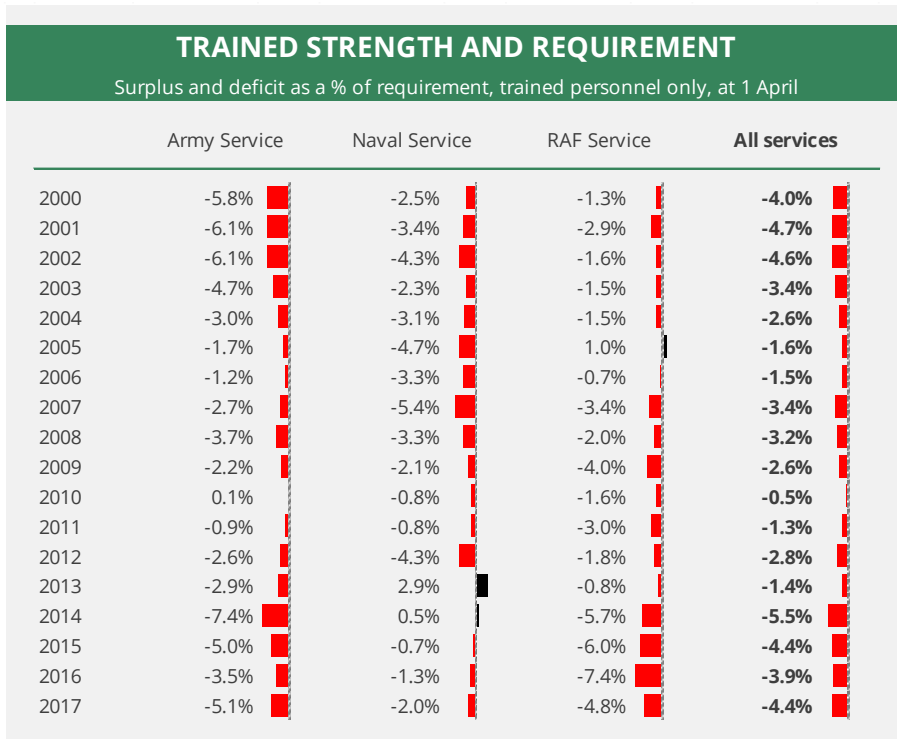
The [2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review](#) has indicated that the requirement for the UK Armed Forces would be 144,200 personnel by 2020.<sup>4</sup> The 2020 target is 53,960 (27.2%) personnel fewer than needed at 1 April 2000.

The table overleaf shows the surplus and deficit of the trained strength for each service as a percentage of the requirement.

In the years shown, the Army Service and RAF Service had a surplus once. The Naval Service had a surplus in two years. As a whole, the trained strength of the UK Armed Forces has been lower than the requirement every April since 2000. The Army Service has had two clear peaks in its deficit (2000/2003 and 2012/2016). The Naval Service's deficit has been relatively similar through the period shown. The RAF Service's deficit has worsened from 2014.

<sup>3</sup> MOD, [Quarterly Personnel Report: 1 October 2013](#), p. 10.

<sup>4</sup> HOCL, [The 2015 Strategic and Defence Security Review \(CBP 7462\)](#), 22 January 2016, p. 20.



Source: Appendix 1.

While focusing on one month each year allows for comparison without needing to adjust for possible seasonal variation, it perhaps provides a slightly distorted view. For example, there was a sustained period of 11 months between 1 May 2015 and 1 March 2016 where there was a 'surplus' of Officers in the Army Service above the requirement. Details such as this can be masked when solely looking at the situation as at 1 April.

The table below shows the situation as at 1 October 2017. The total requirement across all three services was 145,437 personnel. The actual strength was 137,280 (a deficit of 8,157).

<b>TRAINED STRENGTH AND REQUIREMENT: 1 OCTOBER 2017</b>				
Trained personnel only				
	Army Service	Naval Service	RAF Service	<b>All services</b>
<b>Officers</b>				
Trained strength	12,159	5,859	6,600	<b>24,618</b>
Requirement	12,301	5,936	7,249	<b>25,486</b>
Surplus/Deficit	-142	-77	-649	<b>-868</b>
% of requirement	-1.2%	-1.3%	-9.0%	<b>-3.4%</b>
<b>Other ranks</b>				
Trained strength	65,281	23,420	23,961	<b>112,662</b>
Requirement	70,345	24,415	25,191	<b>119,951</b>
Surplus/Deficit	-5,064	-995	-1,230	<b>-7,289</b>
% of requirement	-7.2%	-4.1%	-4.9%	<b>-6.1%</b>
<b>All ranks</b>				
Trained strength	77,440	29,279	30,561	<b>137,280</b>
Requirement	82,646	30,351	32,440	<b>145,437</b>
Surplus/Deficit	-5,206	-1,072	-1,879	<b>-8,157</b>
% of requirement	-6.3%	-3.5%	-5.8%	<b>-5.6%</b>

Note: constituent parts may not sum due to rounding. Source: MOD, [UK Armed Forces Monthly Service Personnel Statistics: October 2017](#), table 3a.

## Operational Pinch Points

The surplus/deficit in the strength of the Services against the requirement is one indicator of their ability to execute military tasks. Other indicators include the surplus/deficit in key trades or ranks, these are known as Operational Pinch Points (OPP).

An OPP is an 'area of expertise where the shortfall where the shortfall in trained strength (Officers and Other ranks) is such that it has a measurable, detrimental impact on current, planned or contingent operations'.<sup>5</sup> Data on OPPs are published in the MOD's [Annual Report and Accounts](#).

The latest annual report shows that the total number of OPPs as at April 2017 is 30. Broken down by service the number of OPPs are:

**Army Service:** the Army has four OPPs relating to logistical roles;

**Naval Service:** the Navy has 15 OPPs which relate to engineering roles and specialist warfare.

**RAF Service:** the RAF has 11 OPPs in engineering and intelligence roles. There are emerging shortfalls in the Aircrew Branch.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> MOD, [Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17](#), p. 38.

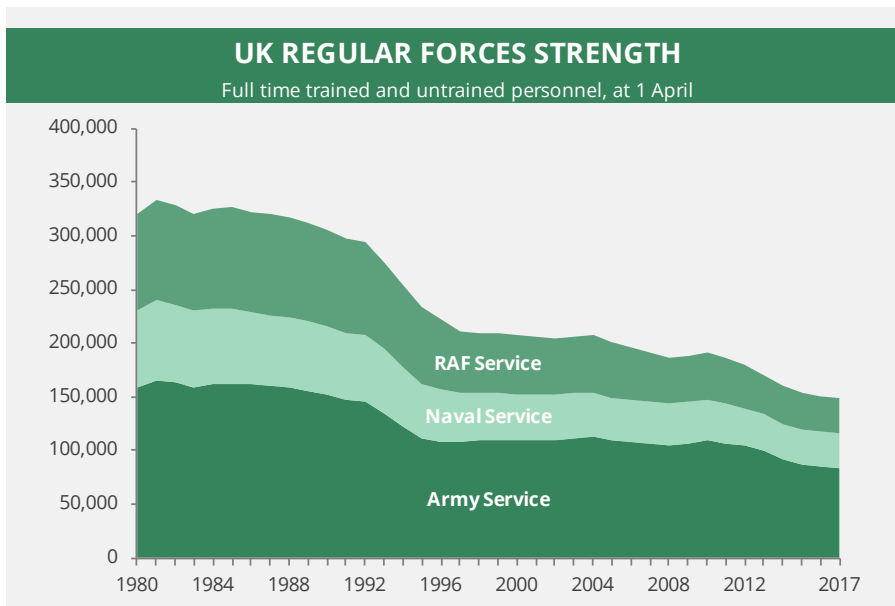
<sup>6</sup> Ibid.



### 3. UK Regular Forces

The total strength of the full time UK Regular Forces (trained and untrained) at 1 October 2017 was 147,525. The chart below shows the strength of the UK Regular Forces at 1 April since 1980.

At the 1 April 1980 the strength of the total UK Regular Forces was 320,600 personnel. The Army Service comprised just under half of the total with 159,100 personnel. There were 71,900 personnel within the Naval Service (22.4%), and 89,700 within the RAF Service (28%). The strength of the total UK Regular Forces on 1 April 2017 was 149,366 (a decrease of just over half compared to 1980).



Source: Appendix 2.

Between 1990 and 1995 the strength of the UK Regular Forces reduced by around 72,500 personnel (a drop of 24%). The reduction in strength was a result of the MOD's *Options for change* strategic defence review announced in July 1990. The review was intended as a response to the changing strategic environment in the post-Cold War era, establishing a smaller better equipped forces and making defence policy focused more on capabilities rather than threats.<sup>7</sup>

Since 2000 the total strength of the UK Regular Forces has generally declined year on year (except for four years of slight growth in 2003, 2004, 2009 and 2010).

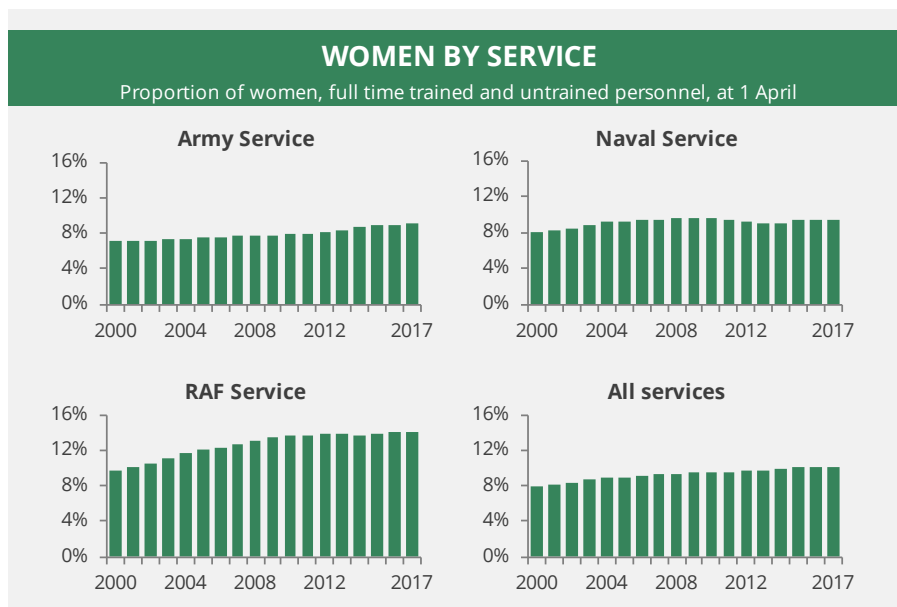
<sup>7</sup> House of Commons Library, [A Brief Guide to Previous Defence Reviews \(SN05714\)](#), 19 October 2010, p. 8-9.

## 4. UK Regular Forces Diversity

Data on the diversity of the UK Regular Forces comes from the MOD's [UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics](#). This publication is published twice per year: for data at 1 April and 1 October. The publication focuses on diversity for the Regular Forces rather than the wider UK Armed Forces.

### 4.1 Gender

The proportion of women in the UK Regular Forces has increased over the past few years. At 1 April 1990 women accounted for around 5.7% of the total UK Regular Forces<sup>8</sup>; by 1 April 2000 this proportion was around 8%. Since 2000 the proportion has increased almost year on year. At 1 April 2017 there were 15,270 women in the UK Regular Forces and accounted for 10.2% of the total strength.



Source Appendix 3.

The proportion of women in the Army Service at 1 April 2000 was 7.1% (the lowest of the three services). On 1 April 2017 women accounted for 9% of the Army Service; an increase of 1.9% points compared to 2000. During the early 2000s the Naval Service increased its share of women personnel before reductions between 2012 and 2014. The RAF Service has consistently had the highest proportion of women compared to the other services.

<sup>8</sup> MOD, [UK Defence Statistics Compendium 2009](#), p. 65.

<b>UK REGULAR FORCES BY GENDER</b>				
Full time trained and untrained personnel, at 1 April 2017				
	Army Service	Naval Service	RAF Service	All services
<b>Officers</b>				
Male	11,180	6,060	6,180	<b>23,410</b>
Female	1,500	740	1,260	<b>3,490</b>
% female	11.8%	9.3%	16.9%	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>Other ranks</b>				
Male	64,820	23,450	22,420	<b>110,680</b>
Female	6,060	2,300	3,410	<b>11,780</b>
% female	8.6%	8.9%	13.2%	<b>9.6%</b>
<b>All ranks</b>				
Male	76,000	29,510	28,590	<b>134,100</b>
Female	7,560	3,040	4,670	<b>15,270</b>
% female	9.1%	9.3%	14.0%	<b>10.2%</b>

Note: constituent parts may not sum due to rounding. Source: Appendix 3.

The table above shows that as at 1 April 2017 there were 15,270 women within the UK Regular Forces (10.2%). Across all ranks the RAF Service had the largest proportion of women (14%) and the Army Service the smallest (9.1%).

The [2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review](#) stated that by 2020 at least 15% of the intake into the UK Regular Forces would be female.

In the 12 months to 31 March 2017, 9.4% of the total intake in the UK Regular Forces was female. For Officer intake this proportion was 16.3%, and for other ranks 8.6%. The RAF Service had the highest proportion of women in its total intake, 15.4%.<sup>9</sup>

On 8 July 2016 the then Prime Minister (David Cameron) announced that women would be allowed to serve in close combat roles by 2018. From 1 September 2017 the RAF opened up the RAF Regiment (the RAFs ground force which protects bases) to applications from women. This means that every trade and branch within the RAF is now open to all genders.<sup>10</sup>

## 4.2 Age

At 1 April 2017 48.1% of UK Regular Forces personnel were under the age of 30. The overall average age was 31. The Army Service had the lowest average age (30), and the RAF Service the highest average age (33).

<sup>9</sup> MOD, [UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics 2017: April](#), table 6.

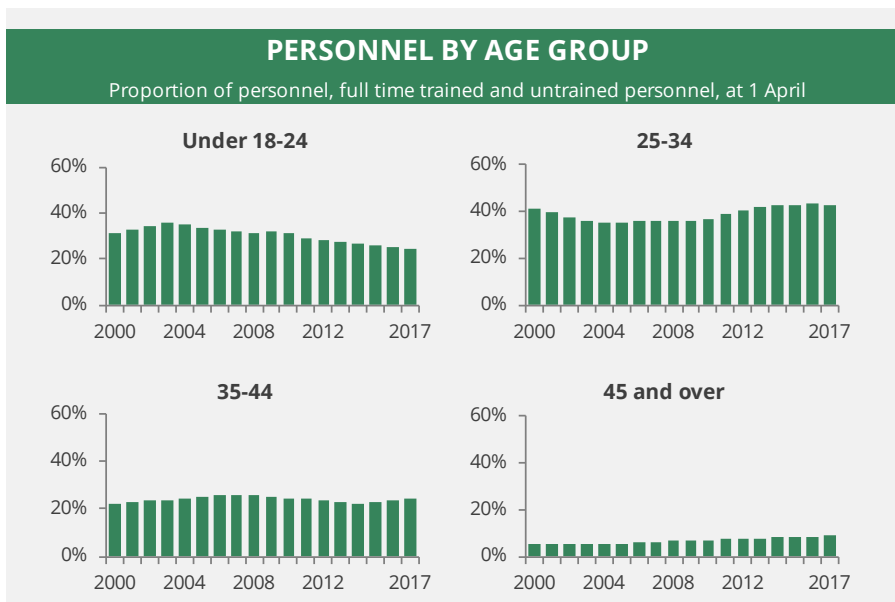
<sup>10</sup> MOD, [RAF opens close combat role to women ahead of schedule](#), 13 July 2017.

## 12 UK Defence Personnel Statistics

UK REGULAR FORCES BY AGE				
Full time trained and untrained personnel, at 1 April 2017				
	Army Service	Naval Service	RAF Service	All services
<b>Under 18-24</b>	<b>23,410</b>	<b>7,240</b>	<b>5,350</b>	<b>35,970</b>
Under 18	1,730	220	160	2,100
18-24	21,680	7,020	5,190	33,870
<b>25-34</b>	<b>36,140</b>	<b>13,980</b>	<b>13,750</b>	<b>63,870</b>
25-29	20,630	7,950	7,220	35,800
30-34	15,510	6,030	6,530	28,070
<b>35-44</b>	<b>19,260</b>	<b>7,380</b>	<b>9,310</b>	<b>35,970</b>
35-39	12,550	4,450	5,710	22,720
40-44	6,710	2,930	3,600	13,250
<b>45 and over</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>13,540</b>
45-49	3,100	2,420	2,860	8,370
50-54	1,480	1,340	1,740	4,560
55-59	170	180	250	600
60 and over	-	10	-	10

Note: - indicates five or less; constituent parts may not sum due to rounding. Source: Appendix 5.

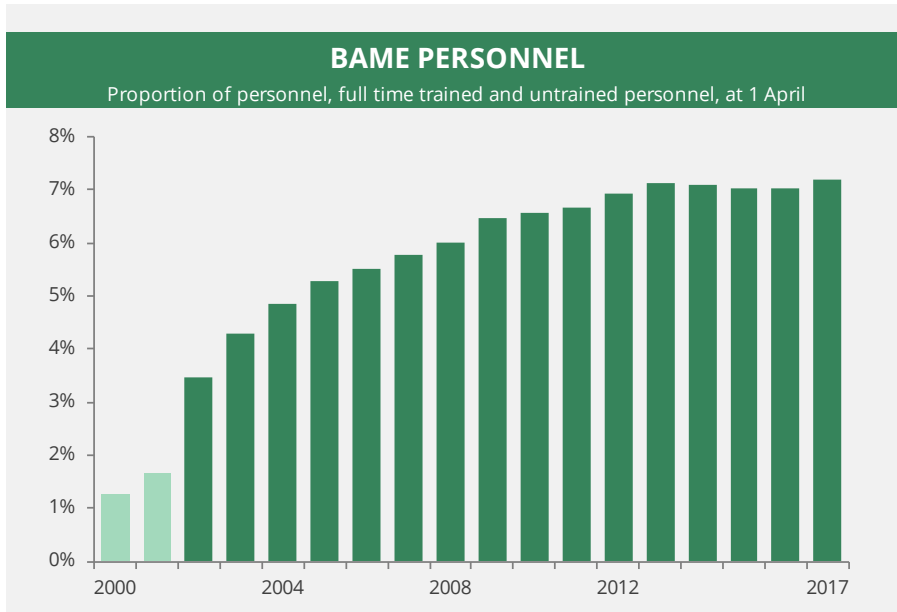
The chart below shows that the proportion of personnel across all services aged 18-24 has declined in recent years; in 2000 this age bracket accounted for 31.4% of all personnel, in 2017 this had been reduced to 24.1% of personnel.



Source: Appendix 5.

### 4.3 Ethnicity

The total proportion of BAME personnel across the UK Regular Forces has increased from around 1.3% at 1 April 2000 to 7.2% at 1 April 2017. The chart below shows BAME personnel in the UK Regular Forces as a proportion of the total.



Note: figures prior to 2002 are not in line with 2001 Population Census codes for ethnic origin; percentages of BAME personnel are calculated from those with a known ethnicity. Source: Appendix 4.

The table below shows that as at 1 April 2017 there were 10,680 BAME personnel in the UK Regular Forces. The Army Service had the greatest proportion of BAME personnel (10.6%) and the RAF Service the least (2.2%).

UK REGULAR FORCES BY ETHNICITY				
Full time trained and untrained personnel, at 1 April 2017				
	Army Service	Naval Service	RAF Service	All services
<b>Officers</b>				
BAME	360	120	150	<b>640</b>
White	12,280	6,610	7,040	<b>25,930</b>
Unknown	40	60	330	<b>430</b>
% BAME	2.9%	1.9%	2.1%	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Other ranks</b>				
BAME	8,460	1,010	580	<b>10,040</b>
White	62,350	24,540	24,630	<b>111,530</b>
Unknown	70	200	540	<b>800</b>
% BAME	11.9%	3.9%	2.3%	<b>8.3%</b>
<b>All ranks</b>				
BAME	8,820	1,130	720	<b>10,680</b>
White	74,630	31,160	31,670	<b>137,460</b>
Unknown	110	260	870	<b>1,230</b>
% BAME	10.6%	3.5%	2.2%	<b>7.2%</b>

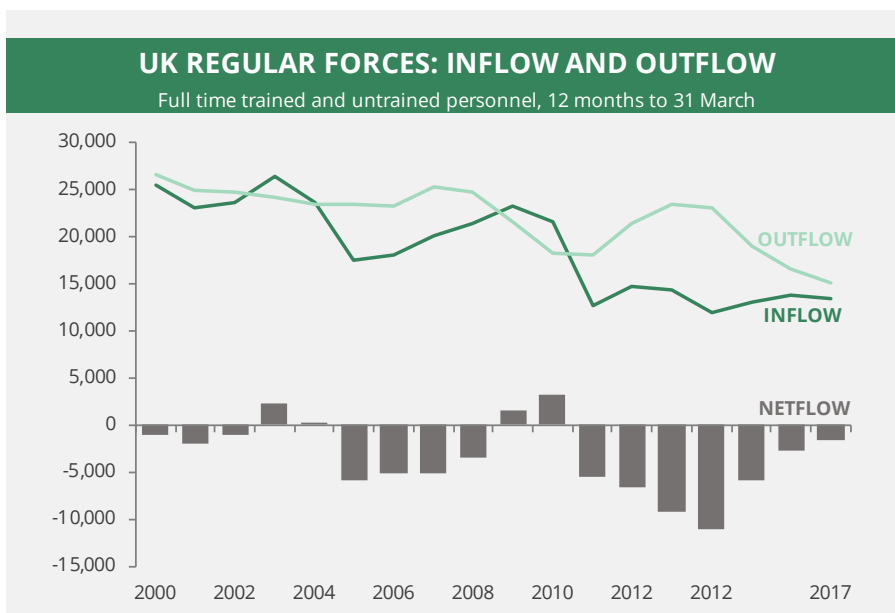
Note: constituent parts may not sum due to rounding; percentages of BAME personnel are calculated from those with a known ethnicity. Source: Appendix 4.

The [2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review](#) stated that at least 10% of personnel intake should be BAME. In the 12 months to 31 March 2017 7.7% of total intake were BAME.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> MOD, [UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics 2017: April](#), table 7.

## 5. UK Regular Forces: Inflow/outflow

The chart below shows the total inflow and outflow of personnel into and out of the UK Regular Forces in the 12 months to 31 March between 2000 and 2017. Inflow comprises new entrants, re-entrants, direct trained entrants (including professionally Qualified Officers), inflow to the Army Service from Gurkhas and inflow from the reserves. Outflow includes trained and untrained personnel leaving the service, deaths and recalled reservists on release. Outflow does not include promotions (i.e. from Other ranks to Officers), or flows between services.



Source: Appendix 6.

During the period shown, total inflow and outflow have both decreased compared to 2000. Inflow to the UK Regular Forces has decreased from 25,555 in 2000 to 13,383 in 2017 (a 47.6% reduction) and outflow decreased from 26,620 in 2000 to 15,047 in 2017 (43.4% reduction). Between 2000 and 2017 inflow has only been higher than outflow for four years (2003/2004 and 2009/2010).

In the 12 months to 31 March 2017 the Army Service had the highest inflow and outflow of personnel. 8,294 people entered the Army Service and 9,775 personnel left. 1,481 more people left the Army Service than entered it.

The RAF Service had the lowest inflow and outflow. 2,044 people entered the RAF Service and 2,269 personnel left. 225 more people left the RAF Service than entered it.

The Naval Service had the smallest net outflow in the period. 3,045 people entered the Naval Service and 3,003 left; 42 more people the service than left it.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Appendix 6, p. xxx

## 6. Future Reserves 2020

In the White Paper [Reserves in the Future Force 2020](#) (published in July 2013) the Government launched the Future Reserves 2020 programme. The aim of Future Reserves 2020 is to increase the size of the reserve forces and to have better integration with the UK Regular Forces. The target trained strength of the Future Reserves 2020 was 30,100 personnel for the Army reserve, 3,100 personnel for the Maritime reserve and 1,860 personnel for the RAF reserve.

<b>FUTURE RESERVES 2020</b>					
Trained personnel only, at 1 April					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Army Reserve</b>	<b>19,928</b>	<b>20,061</b>	<b>21,026</b>	<b>23,028</b>	<b>26,657</b>
Officers	4,039	4,107	4,214	4,478	4,902
Other ranks	15,889	15,954	16,812	18,550	21,755
<b>Maritime Reserve</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>1,866</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>2,555</b>
Officers	718	740	773	867	954
Other ranks	1,045	1,126	1,207	1,483	1,601
<b>RAF Reserve</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>1,436</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>2,152</b>
Officers	213	282	332	366	415
Other ranks	981	1,154	1,289	1,524	1,737
<b>All reserves</b>	<b>22,885</b>	<b>23,363</b>	<b>24,627</b>	<b>27,268</b>	<b>31,364</b>
Officers	4,970	5,129	5,319	5,711	6,271
Other ranks	17,915	18,299	19,308	21,557	25,093

Note: constituent parts may not sum due to rounding; line separating 2016 and 2017 signifies a break in the time series. Source: MOD, [UK Armed Forces Monthly Service Personnel Statistics 2017: August](#), table 6a.

The targets for the Future Reserve 2020 were originally based on the number trained personnel (those who have passed Phase 1 and Phase 2 training). Following the change in definition of the trained strength for the UK Regular Army and Army reserve on 1 October 2016, the measurement/target is based on those who have passed Phase 1 only.<sup>13</sup>

The MOD's consultation document stated that for the Army reserve the change in strength definition "will apply to both comparing against the requirement and all intake/outflow".<sup>14</sup> Unlike the UK Regular Army, the MODs monthly service personnel statistics bulletin no longer show figures for those who have passed Phase 1 and Phase 2 training (the Trade Trained Strength) for the Army reserve. It is not possible to continue a complete time-series of Army reserve personnel who have passed Phase 1 and Phase 2 which is comparable with figures prior to 1 October 2016. The Maritime and RAF reserve are unaffected by these changes.

<sup>13</sup> MOD, [SDSR UK Resilience: trained strength definition for the army and resultant changes to Ministry of Defence armed forces personnel statistics](#), 11 July 2016, p. 2.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

## APPENDIX 1

### UK ARMED FORCES TRAINED STRENGTH AND REQUIREMENTS: 1 APRIL

	Trained requirement				Trained strength			
	Army	Naval	RAF	Total	Army	Naval	RAF	Total
2000	106,400	39,860	51,900	<b>198,160</b>	100,190	38,880	51,210	<b>190,270</b>
2001	106,970	39,900	51,600	<b>198,470</b>	100,420	38,540	50,100	<b>189,070</b>
2002	106,970	39,180	49,990	<b>196,140</b>	100,410	37,500	49,200	<b>187,120</b>
2003	106,980	38,500	49,640	<b>195,130</b>	102,000	37,610	48,890	<b>188,520</b>
2004	106,730	38,720	49,890	<b>195,350</b>	103,550	37,510	49,120	<b>190,190</b>
2005	104,180	38,190	48,730	<b>191,090</b>	102,440	36,400	49,210	<b>188,050</b>
2006	101,800	36,830	47,290	<b>185,920</b>	100,620	35,620	46,940	<b>183,170</b>
2007	101,800	36,800	45,020	<b>183,610</b>	99,080	34,830	43,510	<b>177,430</b>
2008	101,800	36,260	41,210	<b>179,270</b>	98,070	35,050	40,400	<b>173,530</b>
2009	101,790	35,760	41,310	<b>178,860</b>	99,510	35,020	39,640	<b>174,170</b>
2010	102,160	35,790	40,800	<b>178,750</b>	102,260	35,500	40,130	<b>177,890</b>
2011	102,210	35,700	41,340	<b>179,250</b>	101,340	35,420	40,090	<b>176,860</b>
2012	101,210	34,800	38,830	<b>174,840</b>	98,600	33,290	38,120	<b>170,010</b>
2013	96,790	30,530	35,620	<b>162,940</b>	93,940	31,420	35,350	<b>160,710</b>
2014	94,103	30,345	35,196	<b>159,644</b>	87,176	30,509	33,206	<b>150,891</b>
2015	86,535	30,285	33,877	<b>150,697</b>	82,231	30,058	31,828	<b>144,117</b>
2016	82,638	30,100	33,448	<b>146,186</b>	79,746	29,702	30,984	<b>140,432</b>
2017	82,638	30,200	32,409	<b>145,247</b>	78,407	29,584	30,853	<b>138,844</b>

Sources:

[MOD, UK Defence Statistics Compendium 2006, 2007, and 2012](#)

[MOD, UK Armed Forces Quarterly Personnel Report: April 2015](#)

[MOD, UK Armed Forces Monthly Service Personnel Statistics: July 2017](#)



## APPENDIX 2

### UK REGULAR FORCES TRAINED AND UNTRAINED STRENGTH: 1 APRIL

	Officers				All ranks			
	Army	Naval	RAF	Total	Army	Naval	RAF	Total
1980	17,100	10,100	14,900	<b>41,900</b>	159,100	71,900	89,700	<b>320,600</b>
1981	-	-	-	-	166,000	74,300	93,500	<b>333,800</b>
1982	-	-	-	-	163,200	73,000	91,500	<b>327,600</b>
1983	-	-	-	-	159,100	71,800	89,800	<b>320,600</b>
1984	-	-	-	-	161,500	71,300	93,100	<b>325,900</b>
1985	-	-	-	-	162,400	70,400	93,400	<b>326,200</b>
1986	-	-	-	-	161,400	67,900	93,200	<b>322,500</b>
1987	-	-	-	-	159,700	66,500	93,600	<b>319,800</b>
1988	-	-	-	-	158,100	65,500	93,300	<b>316,900</b>
1989	-	-	-	-	155,600	64,700	91,400	<b>311,600</b>
1990	17,400	10,100	15,300	<b>42,900</b>	152,800	63,300	89,700	<b>305,800</b>
1991	-	-	-	-	147,600	62,100	88,400	<b>298,100</b>
1992	-	-	-	-	145,400	62,100	86,000	<b>293,400</b>
1993	-	-	-	-	134,600	59,400	80,900	<b>274,800</b>
1994	-	-	-	-	123,000	55,800	75,700	<b>254,500</b>
1995	14,000	8,800	12,800	<b>35,600</b>	111,700	50,900	70,800	<b>233,300</b>
1996	13,800	8,400	12,000	<b>34,100</b>	108,800	48,300	64,700	<b>221,900</b>
1997	13,700	7,900	11,000	<b>32,700</b>	108,800	45,100	56,900	<b>210,800</b>
1998	13,900	7,800	11,000	<b>32,600</b>	109,800	44,500	55,800	<b>210,100</b>
1999	13,600	7,700	10,900	<b>32,200</b>	109,700	43,700	55,200	<b>208,600</b>
2000	13,870	7,660	10,990	<b>32,520</b>	110,050	42,850	54,720	<b>207,610</b>
2001	13,900	7,800	11,000	<b>32,600</b>	109,500	42,400	53,700	<b>205,600</b>
2002	14,100	7,800	10,900	<b>32,800</b>	110,100	41,600	53,000	<b>204,700</b>
2003	14,400	7,800	11,000	<b>33,200</b>	112,100	41,500	53,200	<b>206,900</b>
2004	14,700	7,800	11,000	<b>33,400</b>	112,700	40,900	53,400	<b>207,000</b>
2005	14,660	7,730	10,620	<b>33,000</b>	109,290	39,940	51,870	<b>201,100</b>
2006	14,730	7,660	10,310	<b>32,700</b>	107,730	39,390	48,730	<b>195,850</b>
2007	14,640	7,580	9,960	<b>32,170</b>	106,340	38,850	45,480	<b>190,670</b>
2008	14,550	7,480	9,700	<b>31,730</b>	104,980	38,560	43,370	<b>186,910</b>
2009	14,510	7,410	9,780	<b>31,700</b>	106,700	38,340	43,560	<b>188,600</b>
2010	14,640	7,460	9,820	<b>31,930</b>	108,920	38,730	44,050	<b>191,710</b>
2011	14,760	7,410	9,660	<b>31,830</b>	106,240	37,660	42,460	<b>186,360</b>
2012	14,480	7,190	9,030	<b>30,700</b>	104,250	35,540	40,000	<b>179,800</b>
2013	13,890	6,940	8,230	<b>29,060</b>	99,730	33,960	37,030	<b>170,710</b>
2014	13,204	6,804	7,846	<b>27,854</b>	91,066	33,334	35,227	<b>159,627</b>
2015	12,831	6,775	7,628	<b>27,234</b>	87,058	32,739	33,927	<b>153,724</b>
2016	12,591	6,772	7,456	<b>26,819</b>	85,038	32,502	33,456	<b>150,996</b>
2017	12,679	6,793	7,519	<b>26,991</b>	83,561	32,544	33,261	<b>149,366</b>

Sources:

[MOD, UK Defence Statistics Compendium 1996, 2001, 2002-04, 2006-12](#)

[MOD, UK Armed Forces Quarterly Personnel Report: April 2015](#)

[MOD, UK Armed Forces Monthly Service Personnel Statistics: July 2017](#)

ONS, Annual Abstract of Statistics 1989

## APPENDIX 3

### UK REGULAR FORCES TRAINED AND UNTRAINED STRENGTH BY GENDER: 1 APRIL

	Male				Female			
	Army	Naval	RAF	Total	Army	Naval	RAF	Total
<b>OFFICERS</b>								
2000	12,590	7,140	9,890	<b>29,620</b>	1,280	520	1,100	<b>2,900</b>
2001	12,600	7,200	9,800	<b>29,600</b>	1,320	560	1,160	<b>3,040</b>
2002	12,670	7,190	9,710	<b>29,570</b>	1,380	590	1,210	<b>3,180</b>
2003	12,940	7,180	9,680	<b>29,800</b>	1,470	610	1,270	<b>3,350</b>
2004	13,190	7,130	9,600	<b>29,920</b>	1,520	640	1,360	<b>3,520</b>
2005	13,110	7,070	9,230	<b>29,410</b>	1,550	660	1,390	<b>3,600</b>
2006	13,140	6,980	8,900	<b>29,020</b>	1,590	680	1,410	<b>3,680</b>
2007	13,010	6,900	8,550	<b>28,460</b>	1,630	680	1,410	<b>3,720</b>
2008	12,910	6,780	8,270	<b>27,960</b>	1,640	700	1,430	<b>3,770</b>
2009	12,890	6,690	8,290	<b>27,870</b>	1,620	720	1,490	<b>3,830</b>
2010	12,980	6,740	8,310	<b>28,030</b>	1,660	720	1,510	<b>3,890</b>
2011	13,090	6,690	8,150	<b>27,930</b>	1,670	720	1,510	<b>3,900</b>
2012	12,790	6,500	7,600	<b>26,890</b>	1,680	700	1,440	<b>3,820</b>
2013	12,250	6,250	6,890	<b>25,390</b>	1,640	690	1,340	<b>3,670</b>
2014	11,640	6,120	6,550	<b>24,320</b>	1,560	680	1,290	<b>3,540</b>
2015	11,310	6,090	6,370	<b>23,760</b>	1,520	690	1,260	<b>3,470</b>
2016	11,110	6,070	6,210	<b>23,380</b>	1,480	700	1,250	<b>3,440</b>
2017	11,180	6,060	6,180	<b>23,410</b>	1,500	740	1,260	<b>3,490</b>
<b>ALL RANKS</b>								
2000	102,260	39,440	49,370	<b>191,070</b>	7,800	3,410	5,350	<b>16,560</b>
2001	101,770	38,950	48,240	<b>188,960</b>	7,760	3,470	5,460	<b>16,690</b>
2002	102,150	38,110	47,390	<b>187,650</b>	7,900	3,520	5,620	<b>17,040</b>
2003	103,840	37,850	47,310	<b>189,000</b>	8,290	3,690	5,930	<b>17,910</b>
2004	104,330	37,150	47,140	<b>188,620</b>	8,410	3,730	6,240	<b>18,380</b>
2005	101,080	36,250	45,610	<b>182,940</b>	8,210	3,690	6,260	<b>18,160</b>
2006	99,550	35,720	42,710	<b>177,980</b>	8,180	3,680	6,010	<b>17,870</b>
2007	98,150	35,200	39,670	<b>173,020</b>	8,190	3,650	5,810	<b>17,650</b>
2008	96,770	34,880	37,670	<b>169,320</b>	8,220	3,680	5,710	<b>17,610</b>
2009	98,380	34,670	37,690	<b>170,740</b>	8,320	3,670	5,870	<b>17,860</b>
2010	100,350	35,020	38,010	<b>173,380</b>	8,570	3,710	6,040	<b>18,320</b>
2011	97,760	34,120	36,630	<b>168,510</b>	8,480	3,530	5,840	<b>17,850</b>
2012	95,680	32,270	34,480	<b>162,430</b>	8,570	3,280	5,530	<b>17,380</b>
2013	91,330	30,880	31,890	<b>154,100</b>	8,400	3,080	5,130	<b>16,610</b>
2014	83,100	30,320	30,370	<b>143,790</b>	7,960	3,010	4,850	<b>15,840</b>
2015	79,270	29,700	29,210	<b>138,170</b>	7,790	3,050	4,720	<b>15,550</b>
2016	77,380	29,470	28,770	<b>135,620</b>	7,650	3,030	4,690	<b>15,380</b>
2017	76,000	29,510	28,590	<b>134,100</b>	7,560	3,040	4,670	<b>15,270</b>

Sources:

[MOD, UK Defence Statistics Compendium 2005, 2007, and 2012](#)

[MOD, UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics 2017: April](#)

## APPENDIX 4

### UK REGULAR FORCES TRAINED AND UNTRAINED STRENGTH BY ETHNICITY: 1 APRIL

	Officers				All ranks			
	White	BAME	Unknown	Total	White	BAME	Unknown	Total
2000	32,000	360	160	<b>32,520</b>	204,535	2,645	435	<b>207,615</b>
2001	32,120	405	110	<b>32,635</b>	201,960	3,400	290	<b>205,650</b>
2002	29,410	760	2,580	<b>32,750</b>	178,255	6,405	20,020	<b>204,680</b>
2003	29,725	750	2,680	<b>33,155</b>	181,655	8,175	17,085	<b>206,915</b>
2004	29,890	745	2,810	<b>33,445</b>	182,060	9,320	15,640	<b>207,020</b>
2005	29,720	740	2,545	<b>33,005</b>	177,665	9,885	13,545	<b>201,095</b>
2006	30,020	740	1,940	<b>32,700</b>	175,200	10,200	10,460	<b>195,860</b>
2007	29,440	740	2,000	<b>32,180</b>	169,690	10,430	10,550	<b>190,670</b>
2008	28,960	730	2,040	<b>31,730</b>	165,510	10,590	10,810	<b>186,910</b>
2009	28,740	750	2,200	<b>31,690</b>	166,430	11,510	10,650	<b>188,590</b>
2010	29,640	740	1,550	<b>31,930</b>	173,790	12,240	5,670	<b>191,700</b>
2011	30,040	750	1,050	<b>31,840</b>	170,730	12,230	3,410	<b>186,370</b>
2012	29,060	720	930	<b>30,710</b>	164,750	12,300	2,750	<b>179,800</b>
2013	27,630	670	760	<b>29,060</b>	156,470	12,030	2,210	<b>170,710</b>
2014	26,490	640	720	<b>27,850</b>	146,440	11,200	1,980	<b>159,620</b>
2015	26,080	630	520	<b>27,230</b>	141,540	10,680	1,500	<b>153,720</b>
2016	25,690	630	500	<b>26,820</b>	139,000	10,490	1,500	<b>150,990</b>
2017	25,930	640	430	<b>26,990</b>	137,460	10,680	1,230	<b>149,370</b>

Sources:

[MOD, UK Defence Statistics Compendium 2005, 2007, and 2012](#)

[MOD, UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics 2017: April](#)

## APPENDIX 5

### UK REGULAR FORCES TRAINED AND UNTRAINED STRENGTH BY AGE: 1 APRIL

	Under 18	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+
<b>OFFICERS</b>								
2000	10	3,200	6,220	<b>5,750</b>	5,660	4,940	3,520	<b>3,210</b>
2001	0	3,340	6,050	<b>5,650</b>	5,790	5,060	3,600	<b>3,140</b>
2002	0	3,490	5,830	<b>5,660</b>	5,890	5,200	3,660	<b>3,010</b>
2003	0	3,530	5,820	<b>5,630</b>	6,060	5,360	3,820	<b>2,940</b>
2004	0	3,480	5,970	<b>5,610</b>	6,000	5,470	4,000	<b>2,920</b>
2005	0	3,130	6,060	<b>5,490</b>	5,790	5,540	4,140	<b>2,850</b>
2006	0	2,910	6,250	<b>5,300</b>	5,680	5,580	4,220	<b>2,750</b>
2007	0	2,740	6,290	<b>5,040</b>	5,590	5,520	4,300	<b>2,690</b>
2008	0	2,600	6,240	<b>4,930</b>	5,440	5,470	4,320	<b>2,730</b>
2009	0	2,580	6,140	<b>5,050</b>	5,300	5,470	4,270	<b>2,880</b>
2010	0	2,630	5,970	<b>5,290</b>	5,190	5,450	4,360	<b>3,050</b>
2011	0	2,420	5,890	<b>5,520</b>	5,000	5,440	4,460	<b>3,100</b>
2012	0	2,130	5,670	<b>5,530</b>	4,700	5,280	4,410	<b>2,980</b>
2013	0	1,870	5,320	<b>5,400</b>	4,460	4,910	4,290	<b>2,820</b>
2014	0	1,740	5,090	<b>5,110</b>	4,420	4,540	4,210	<b>2,740</b>
2015	0	1,750	4,940	<b>4,910</b>	4,460	4,270	4,040	<b>2,860</b>
2016	0	1,780	4,790	<b>4,750</b>	4,570	4,070	3,910	<b>2,960</b>
2017	0	1,870	4,860	<b>4,660</b>	4,620	3,970	3,900	<b>3,120</b>
<b>ALL RANKS</b>								
2000	6,410	58,790	46,190	<b>39,530</b>	33,150	12,900	6,160	<b>4,480</b>
2001	6,520	60,580	41,530	<b>39,590</b>	33,080	13,760	6,210	<b>4,370</b>
2002	6,990	62,760	37,630	<b>39,100</b>	33,110	14,670	6,250	<b>4,160</b>
2003	7,510	65,970	36,040	<b>38,220</b>	33,210	15,330	6,640	<b>4,000</b>
2004	6,690	66,610	36,520	<b>36,390</b>	33,230	16,510	7,130	<b>3,950</b>
2005	5,140	62,560	37,490	<b>33,990</b>	33,270	17,080	7,630	<b>3,920</b>
2006	4,920	59,070	38,710	<b>31,100</b>	33,520	16,780	7,880	<b>3,860</b>
2007	4,660	56,280	39,850	<b>28,440</b>	32,950	16,570	8,100	<b>3,810</b>
2008	4,450	54,340	40,440	<b>26,920</b>	31,930	16,670	8,260	<b>3,920</b>
2009	4,670	55,620	40,860	<b>27,310</b>	30,310	17,180	8,440	<b>4,200</b>
2010	3,510	56,940	41,750	<b>29,120</b>	28,670	18,320	8,830	<b>4,590</b>
2011	2,530	51,860	41,960	<b>30,790</b>	26,510	18,900	9,040	<b>4,750</b>
2012	2,620	48,010	41,530	<b>31,720</b>	24,060	18,200	8,960	<b>4,710</b>
2013	2,170	44,940	40,100	<b>31,370</b>	22,040	16,860	8,650	<b>4,580</b>
2014	1,760	40,660	38,440	<b>29,830</b>	20,970	14,990	8,440	<b>4,540</b>
2015	1,800	38,060	37,360	<b>28,690</b>	21,050	13,980	8,150	<b>4,630</b>
2016	1,900	35,780	36,810	<b>28,320</b>	21,880	13,330	8,180	<b>4,810</b>
2017	2,100	33,870	35,800	<b>28,070</b>	22,720	13,250	8,370	<b>5,170</b>

Sources:

[MOD, UK Defence Statistics Compendium 2005, 2007, and 2012](#)

[MOD, UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics 2017: April](#)

## APPENDIX 6

### UK REGULAR FORCES TRAINED AND UNTRAINED INFLOW/OUTFLOW: 12 MONTHS TO 31 MARCH

	Inflow				Outflow			
	Army	Naval	RAF	Total	Army	Naval	RAF	Total
2000	16,500	4,950	4,100	<b>25,550</b>	16,200	5,800	4,620	<b>26,620</b>
2001	14,770	4,620	3,630	<b>23,020</b>	15,230	5,040	4,680	<b>24,950</b>
2002	14,850	5,010	3,780	<b>23,650</b>	14,380	5,800	4,530	<b>24,710</b>
2003	16,690	5,210	4,450	<b>26,350</b>	14,560	5,290	4,250	<b>24,100</b>
2004	15,260	4,120	4,160	<b>23,540</b>	14,600	4,770	4,040	<b>23,400</b>
2005	11,720	3,690	2,180	<b>17,590</b>	15,070	4,630	3,730	<b>23,430</b>
2006	12,730	3,940	1,480	<b>18,150</b>	14,190	4,490	4,590	<b>23,260</b>
2007	14,300	3,890	1,900	<b>20,100</b>	15,770	4,400	5,150	<b>25,320</b>
2008	14,290	4,040	3,020	<b>21,350</b>	15,280	4,330	5,150	<b>24,760</b>
2009	14,660	4,240	4,300	<b>23,190</b>	13,080	4,440	4,120	<b>21,650</b>
2010	13,910	4,130	3,460	<b>21,500</b>	11,560	3,720	2,990	<b>18,270</b>
2011	8,760	2,550	1,410	<b>12,730</b>	11,500	3,630	3,010	<b>18,140</b>
2012	11,190	2,220	1,390	<b>14,800</b>	13,200	4,320	3,850	<b>21,370</b>
2013	10,300	2,770	1,310	<b>14,370</b>	14,890	4,350	4,290	<b>23,520</b>
2014	7,023	3,174	1,688	<b>11,885</b>	15,735	3,786	3,476	<b>22,997</b>
2015	8,165	2,933	1,882	<b>12,980</b>	12,209	3,519	3,184	<b>18,912</b>
2016	8,600	2,997	2,199	<b>13,796</b>	10,626	3,240	2,679	<b>16,545</b>
2017	8,294	3,045	2,044	<b>13,383</b>	9,775	3,003	2,269	<b>15,047</b>

Sources:

[MOD, UK Defence Statistics Compendium 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2012](#)

[MOD, UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics 2017: April](#)

[MOD, UK Armed Forces Annual Personnel Report 2013](#)

### About the Library

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email [papers@parliament.uk](mailto:papers@parliament.uk). Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email [hcenquiries@parliament.uk](mailto:hcenquiries@parliament.uk).

### Disclaimer

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).