



DEBATE PACK

CDP-0033 (2020) | 20 February 2020

Wales's contribution to the UK armed forces

Westminster Hall

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4:30-5:30pm

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The proceedings of this debate can be viewed on [Parliament.tv](https://www.parliament.tv).

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

The Welsh Affairs Committee published a report on the [Armed Forces and Defence Industry in Wales](#) on 4 November 2019. The Committee said:

The UK Government should ensure that Wales has a fair share of military presence, broadly in proportion to its population. It should provide certainty about any proposed changes to the location of units and minimise the impact on the Welsh economy and local communities.

There are 3,230 military and civilian personnel based in Wales¹ and over 60 Ministry of Defence establishments and bases, including reserve centres and the training estate.²

The defence footprint

The Army has the largest presence of the three services with 1,450 personnel.³ HQ Wales and [HQ 160th Infantry Brigade](#) are based at Brecon, home to the Infantry battle school.⁴ There are no infantry units based in Wales although 1st Battalion The Rifles is based just across the border in Beachley Barracks in Chepstow. None of the regular units of what are considered the Welsh combat units are based in Wales: the Welsh Guards, who describe themselves as Wales's senior infantry regiment, are based in Surrey, the 1st Battalion the Royal Welsh are in Wiltshire while the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards are near Norwich. There are a number of Army Reserve units in Wales. The Welsh Regiments held a reception for MPs in Portcullis House on 12 February 2020.⁵

The RAF conducts operational low flying training and fast-jet pilot training from RAF Valley in Anglesey.

The Royal Navy has the smallest presence of the three services.

Sennybridge near Powys is the third largest military training area in the UK.

The MOD intends to close Cawdor Barracks and Brecon Barracks, two of the main Army bases in Wales, in 2024 and 2027 as part of wider plans to reduce the military footprint across the UK. The infantry battle school in Brecon will not be closing. The MOD also plans to relocate some units from Wales.

The future military use of MOD St Athan has been an issue for years. The MOD is seeking to retain a military presence at St Athan, currently home to No.4 School of Technical Training, and is in discussions with the Welsh Government, which is developing the site as an aviation

¹ [Annual location statistics: 1 April 2019](#), Ministry of Defence, 30 May 2019, table 2.1a

² [PQ121594](#), 15 January 2018

³ [Annual location statistics: 1 April 2019](#), Ministry of Defence, 30 May 2019, table 1.1b

⁴ HQ 160th Infantry Brigade lists the units affiliated with Wales located in Wales within the Brigade. This includes 14 Signal Regiment

⁵ Army in Wales [post on Facebook](#) 12 February 2020, accessed 20 February 2020

business park. The MOD said in September 2019 that the future “location and timeframe to relocate No.4 School of Technical Training at MOD St Athan has not been finalised and is subject to further assessment.”⁶

The Welsh Government expressed concern about the wider impact of the proposed closures in a [written statement](#) in December 2018. Alun Davies, the then Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services for the Welsh Government, said:

The Welsh Identity within the Armed Forces is an essential part of our national identity. It is of central importance to the future of our Union that our Armed Forces are based in all constitute parts of the UK and that all our nations are able to play their part in defending the UK and all our nations are represented in the decisions over bases and the MoD’s wider estates strategy.⁷

The Welsh Affairs Committee’s main findings and recommendations to the UK Government are:

1. The UK Government should work with the Welsh Government to ensure that base closures do not result in a reduction of the defence footprint in Wales.
2. Decisions about the relocation of regiments currently based in Wales must be confirmed very soon, and the possibility of relocating at least one of the Welsh combat units from England to Wales should be explored.
3. The UK and Welsh Governments must urgently provide clarity about future plans for MOD St Athan, and reverse the decision to relocate the RAF Training School.⁸

Defence expenditure and industry

The MOD spent £1,086 million with Welsh defence industry and commerce in FY2018/19 and supported an estimated 7,700 jobs.⁹ MOD regional expenditure figures published on 30 January 2020 show an 11% rise in expenditure a 22% rise in jobs supported from MOD expenditure in Wales from 2017/18 to 2018/19. The MOD attributes this in part to increased expenditure on military flight training and Ajax armoured vehicles. The MOD spends £350 per person in Wales, third only to the South West and South East (Scotland is fourth).¹⁰ The MOD says it does not hold figures relating to R&D spend in the regions.¹¹

The MOD told the Welsh Affairs Committee in written evidence:

There is no agreed minimum or maximum spend on personnel and bases in the Devolved Nations. Defence decisions are taken on the basis is what is best for Defence and security of the whole

⁶ [PQ285225](#), 9 September 2019

⁷ [‘Written Statement: Defence Estate and military presence in Wales’](#), Welsh Government, 10 December 2018

⁸ [Armed Forces and Defence Industry in Wales](#), Welsh Affairs Committee, HC 128 2019, 4 November 2019

⁹ [‘MOD regional expenditure with UK industry and supported employment: 2018/19’](#), Ministry of Defence, 30 January 2020, tables 2 and 9

¹⁰ [‘MOD regional expenditure with UK industry and supported employment: 2018/19’](#), Ministry of Defence, 30 January 2020

¹¹ [PQ3177](#), 22 January 2020

of the UK but we also recognise the differing impacts in the nations that make up the UK.¹²

Ajax will equip the Army's new strike brigades, alongside the Boxer mechanised infantry vehicle. Ajax will be assembled in Wales at General Dynamics plant in Merthyr Tydfil.¹³ This is a £4.5bn programme for a family of 589 tracked armoured vehicles which are expected to enter service from 2020 to 2025.

The Government-owned Defence Electronics & Components Agency (DECA) at MOD Sealand in North Wales will be a global repair hub for F-35 (Lightning) aircraft. It will provide maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade services for F-35 avionics and aircraft components.¹⁴ Qioptiq was awarded an £82m contract for surveillance and targeting equipment (weapon sights, night vision goggles) in January 2019.¹⁵

The Welsh Affairs Committee described the defence industry in Wales as successful but called on the Government to make the bidding process for contracts less complex and to ensure "any decisions about the wider defence footprint do not impact negatively on any projects awarded to business and supply chains in Wales".¹⁶

¹² [Armed Forces and Defence Industry in Wales](#), Welsh Affairs Committee, HC 128 2019, 4 November 2019, written evidence [WA0006](#), 9 September 2019

¹³ Lockheed Martin is contracted to [provide 245 turrets](#) for the Ajax reconnaissance variant. These are being designed and manufactured in Bedfordshire.

¹⁴ "[UK chosen as global F-35 repair hub](#)", Ministry of Defence, 7 November 2016; "[MOD Sealand chosen as global F-35 repair hub](#)", UK aviation news, 7 November 2016

¹⁵ "[Qioptiq: £82 million contract win with Ministry of Defence](#)", Ministry of Defence, 3 January 2019

¹⁶ [Armed Forces and Defence Industry in Wales](#), Welsh Affairs Committee, HC 128 2019, 4 November 2019

2. Press releases

[UK defence invests more than £1 billion in Wales](#)

Ministry of Defence

30 January 2020

[UK defence spending in Wales](#) reached more than £1 billion for the first time last year (2018-19) supporting more than 7,000 jobs.

Ministry of Defence figures published today (30 January) show that the department's procurement spend in Wales increased from £960m in 2017-18 to £1.08bn last year – an increase in per capita spending from £310 to £350.

Major defence projects in Wales include the production of the Army's next generation of AJAX armoured fighting vehicles at General Dynamics UK in Merthyr Tydfil and Oakdale, the development of a new £11m Royal Naval Reserve centre in Cardiff Bay and a £250m contract with Raytheon in Broughton to provide support services to the Royal Air Force's fleet of surveillance aircraft.

It is estimated that around 7,700 jobs in defence in Wales are now being supported by UK Government defence spending, up from 6,300 in 2017-18.

Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart said:

UK Defence spent more than £1bn with Welsh industry last year supporting thousands of private sector jobs.

This investment in businesses such as General Dynamics, Raytheon and others makes Wales a genuine defence industry hub and one of the most competitive places in the world from which to innovate and deliver security.

Among the military bases in Wales is the home of 160 Brigade HQ Wales in Brecon while a light infantry unit is to be based at MOD St Athan which will become the main Army base in Wales as well as a major RAF base.

In 2017, the runway at RAF Valley on Anglesey was restored as part of a £20m refurbishment extending its operational life for a further 25 years. All new UK fighter pilots pass through Valley before reaching their frontline squadron.

The area around Brecon and Sennybridge are home to major Army training facilities and every year hosts Exercise Cambrian Patrol which sees military units from across the world travel to Wales to test themselves on the demanding two-day course.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

Defence continues to provide security and prosperity as we see billions invested across the UK and the subsequent hundreds of thousands of jobs supported.

Other recent UK Government defence investments in Wales include the awarding of an £82m contract to Qioptiq, based in St Asaph, to maintain surveillance and targeting equipment over the next five years.

Welsh Secretary welcomes Defence Secretary to Welsh bases leading the way in training and education

Ministry of Defence

18 January 2020

In a visit spanning the length of the country Gavin Williamson, Alun Cairns and Nigel Adams will inspect some of the Welsh bases contributing to the UK's vital defence capabilities. From speaking to those undertaking fast jet training in Hawk aircraft at RAF Valley to exploring the School of Technical Training at St Athan, the UK Government Ministers will see first-hand what Wales has to offer in defence, security and innovation.

On their visit to RAF St. Athan, the UK Government Ministers will meet high-ranking representatives from the Welsh-based RAF and army. At the meetings they will discuss their ambition for the future of the south Wales base.

RAF Valley on Anglesey is home to the No 4 Flying Training School, responsible for training the UK's next generation of world-class fighter pilots. On what is the Defence Secretary's first visit to the base, the UK Government Ministers will have the chance to meet some of the 2,210 regular UK Armed Forces personnel based in Wales and hear of their experiences on the Anglesey base and further afield.

With a total investment of £945 million from the UK Government's Ministry of Defence into Welsh businesses in 2016/17, Wales is now one of the most competitive places in the world from which to innovate, build business and deliver security. Speaking to commanders at RAF Valley and St Athan, UK Government Ministers will reinforce this vital support for the Welsh defence sector and outline their visions for its future.

Secretary of State for Defence, Gavin Williamson said:

The 2,210 regular and 1,080 reservist Armed Forces personnel in Wales make a tremendous contribution to the security and prosperity of the United Kingdom. Wales is home to our 160 Brigade HQ, a light infantry unit, the fast jet pilot training school at RAF Valley and their ground engineering school at MOD St Athan, as well as vital training facilities around Brecon.

Defence invests £945 million each year with businesses in Wales supporting 6,300 jobs, from General Dynamics in Merthyr Tydfil, building armoured vehicles for the Army, to the high tech work of Qinetiq in Aberporth, and the Defence Electronics and Components Agency in Flintshire, which supports our new world-beating RAF F-35 fast jets.

Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns said:

RAF Valley and St Athan are prime examples of how the UK defence sector not only protects us from global threats but also

fosters prosperity, creating thousands of highly-skilled jobs and generating millions of pounds in exports.

After seeing first-hand the world-class talent, not only here in our bases but also as part of our ongoing deployment on the ground in Afghanistan, I am more determined than ever to secure and strengthen Wales' military footprint.

UK Government Minister for Wales, Nigel Adams said:

The first-class training available at the bases across Wales is a true testament to the strength of the Welsh defence sector.

With Welsh-based soldiers, aircrew and sailors deployed worldwide the skill and expertise produced here can be seen and felt globally. The UK Government is committed to preserving Wales' reputation for producing military excellence and I look forward to working closely with the Defence Secretary to drive forward this success.

Following the visit to the two RAF bases, the UK Government Ministers will learn of the invaluable support provided to veterans in south Wales. Helping veterans to re-engage with their families and communities, Woody's Lodge provides a welcoming space for veterans to receive expert support and advice.

Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns said:

Following the recent launch of the UK-wide Veteran's Strategy by the UK Government, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Office, it is inspiring to visit an organisation that for many years has been working towards achieving some of the strategy's core aims here in south Wales.

Woody's lodge supports Veterans to face some of the wide variety of challenges and issues that Veterans can come across when they leave the armed forces. By visiting such organisations, the UK Government can gain a better insight into these challenges and ensure that we are fully informed to deliver a strategy that works.

[Minister hails world-class Wales' role in defence industry](#)

Ministry of Defence

30 August 2018

Defence invests £945 million in Welsh industry, supporting more than 6,000 jobs. The Minister visited leading firms befitting from defence work such as Defence Electronics and Components Agency (DECA), Kent Periscopes, Qioptiq and Raytheon, which are all supporting essential equipment to the UK's Armed Forces.

The crucial relationship between the MOD and Welsh industry was clearly laid out in the recent publication of an [independent review published by former Defence Minister Philip Dunne](#), and has now been showcased to the former Wales Office Minister on his return to the nation in his new role.

Defence Minister Stuart Andrew said:

Wales is crucial to our world-leading defence industry, our Armed Forces and their future capabilities. The hundreds of millions of pounds we are investing in Welsh firms means the nation can continue making a massive contribution to our safety in the face of intensifying threats across the globe.

The 6,000 workers in Wales' defence sector can be extremely proud that their entrepreneurship, innovation and skills are ensuring our brave servicemen and women are equipped with the latest equipment and systems so they can protect us at home and around the world.

The Minister's tour of Welsh firms began at DECA Sealand, which will be at the forefront of maintaining the UK's new supersonic F-35 Lightning Force fighter jets.

The Sealand site will become a global repair hub for the aircraft, providing maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade services for F-35 avionics, electronic and electrical components, fuel, mechanical and hydraulic systems. The fighter jet work will sustain thousands of jobs and pump hundreds of millions of pounds into the local economy.

Whilst at the site, the Minister announced that the F-35B Lightning has carried out its first trials armed with UK-built weapons out in the US.

The minister also visited Raytheon, where he had the chance to see the cutting-edge capabilities for the British aerospace and defence sectors. The company's technology is used in some of the most advanced aircraft surveillance and intelligence systems in existence.

This includes the Sentinel, which is one of the UK's most advanced manned surveillance aircraft, and the closely guarded Shadow special mission aircraft. The Defence Minister's visit coincided with the company celebrating 10 years of Sentinel and more than 30,000 operational hours.

Defence Minister Stuart Andrew added:

The Sentinel has proved its enormous worth time and time again, from tracking terrorists in Syria and Iraq, to helping provide overseas aid and even mapping flooding here in the UK.

The fact it has now been on operations for over 30,000 hours not only demonstrates how the RAF are working around the clock to put it to use on behalf of the country, but is a testament to its home here in North Wales.

The workers here in Broughton should be extremely proud of the fantastic work they are doing to ensure this 'eye-in-the-sky' continues to collect the crucial intelligence our Armed Forces need to keep us safe.

The Sentinel programme has supported more than 200 suppliers across the country, while Raytheon has supported 450 jobs through the supply chain.

On the second day of his tour, the Minister was also given an insight into the important work being done by Kent Periscopes. The company provides the British Army with crucial periscopes for armoured personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles and tanks.

The minister's final stop involved a visit to Qioptiq, a company that specialises in optics and photonics and provides crucial night vision equipment to UK Armed Forces. Qioptiq's cutting-edge work supports more than 500 jobs in north Wales.

UK chosen as a global F-35 repair hub

Ministry of Defence

7 November 2016

The Ministry of Defence is pleased to announce that the UK has been chosen by the F-35 Program Office to be a global repair hub providing maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade services for F-35 avionics and aircraft components. Over the lifetime of the programme, components for hundreds of European-based F-35 aircraft will be serviced and maintained in North Wales.

This work will generate hundreds of millions of pounds of revenue for the UK defence industry, with the potential to unlock more than £2Bn of future F-35 support revenue over the lifetime of the programme. This will help sustain thousands of high tech jobs and skills. The work will involve maintenance and repair of systems for the F-35 aircraft including electronic and electrical components, fuel, mechanical and hydraulic systems, and ejection seats.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said:

This establishes Britain as a hub for all European F35s and is hugely positive news for our high-tech and innovative defence industry. It is an endorsement of the skills and capabilities the UK offers; will help create hundreds of high-end jobs, safeguard thousands more and be a substantial boost to UK exports.

Building on the strong foundations of Britain's pre-eminent and enduring defence partnership with the US, this decision supports British jobs and helps keep Britain safer and more secure.

The winning UK solution will be based on an innovative partnership enterprise between Defence Electronics & Components Agency (DECA), BAE Systems and Northrop Grumman, supported by key F-35 Original Equipment Manufacturers. The work will be centred at the UK Government-owned, Defence Electronics & Components Agency (DECA), based at MOD Sealand, in North East Wales.

Alun Cairns, Secretary of State for Wales, said:

Today's announcement makes Wales an essential component repair hub for supporting the F-35 aircraft and confirms our status as a leader in aviation technology.

I'm delighted that the expertise that exists in Wales, along with a skilled workforce, has been recognised by the award of this major

contract. It will lead to the investment of millions of pounds into the economy of North Wales.

The North Wales maintenance site already supports around 400 jobs with thousands more in the wider supply chain - these will be sustained and grown over the coming years as a result of today's news. MOD Sealand is a perfect location for maintenance work on this scale and I'm confident we will see further investment locally for the aerospace industry in Wales.

The new global avionic and aircraft component repair service is expected to be operational from early 2018.

Tony Douglas, Chief Executive Officer of the MOD's Defence Equipment and Support organisation said:

The UK's winning proposal, which will provide best value for money for the F-35 enterprise, is testament to the strength of both UK Government and our industry knowledge and expertise.

Geraint Spearing, Chief Executive of the Defence Electronics & Components Agency added:

Securing this global repair hub at DECA in our 100th year at the Sealand site is a fitting way to celebrate our Centenary. Our involvement in the global support solution for F-35 will continue to develop DECA's cutting-edge capabilities, allowing targeted investment and growth in our infrastructure and people. This will continue our proud heritage of providing pivotal support to our Armed Forces for many years to come.

3. PQs

Armed Forces: Brecon Beacons National Park

10 Feb 2020 | 12257

Asked by: Jonathan Edwards

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what his policy is on the use of Brecon Beacons national park for military training.

Answering member: Anne-Marie Trevelyan | Department: Ministry of Defence

It is Ministry of Defence (MOD) policy to prioritise training on property that is owned, leased or licensed by the MOD.

Training on Private Land (TOPL) is the alternative solution when the MOD is unable to allocate suitable training facilities on the MOD training estate and the proposed activities are compatible with private land uses.

TOPL at the Brecon Beacons is used by several units including the Infantry Battle School. The majority of training is for navigation and endurance covering large distances whilst assessing individuals map reading ability.

Defence: Research

22 January 2020 | 3177

Asked by: Jonathan Edwards

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of his Department's funding for research and development he allocated to firms in Wales in 2018.

Answering member: James Heappey | Ministry of Defence

Research and Development (R&D) is critical to the delivery of battle-winning capability for our Armed Forces. In 2017-18, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) net expenditure on R&D activity (identified as meeting the Frascati international definition for new, novel and innovative R&D) totalled £1.6 billion, much of it with UK industry and supply chain SMEs, sustaining many UK jobs.

In 2017-18 the MOD's expenditure with UK Industry in Wales was £960 million. Defence expenditure with UK industry supported approximately 6,300 Welsh jobs in 2017-18.[1]

Actual figures relating to R&D spend in the regions are not held by the Department and as such could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Further related information is available online at the following locations.

MOD regional expenditure with UK industry and supported employment: 2017-18

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-regional-expenditure-with-uk-industry-and-supported-employment-201718>

UK gross domestic expenditure on research and development Statistical bulletins:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/researchanddevelopmentexpenditure/bulletins/ukgrossdomesticexpenditureonresearchanddevelopment/previousReleases>

UK government expenditure on science, engineering and technology Statistical bulletins:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/researchanddevelopmentexpenditure/bulletins/ukgovernmentexpenditureonscienceengineeringandtechnology/previousReleases>

Source: MOD regional expenditure with UK industry and supported employment: 2017/18.

[RAF St Athan](#)

09 Sep 2019 | 285225

Asked by: Madeleine Moon

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what financial assistance will be made available to individuals employed at No.4 School of Technical Training at RAF St. Athan to transfer to its new location; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Anne-Marie Trevelyan | Department: Ministry of Defence

The future location and timeframe to relocate No.4 School of Technical Training at MOD St Athan has not been finalised and is subject to further assessment. The provision of any financial assistance will be in accordance with MOD policy at the time of the move.

[Armed Forces: Wales](#)

08 May 2019 | 249932

Asked by: Jonathan Edwards

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of (a) Royal Navy, (b) Royal Air Force and (c) army personnel resided in Wales before assuming active service in the last five years.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

The requested information is provided in the following table:

Proportion of Welsh Intake to the Untrained Regular Armed Forces, by Financial Year and Service:

Financial Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	3.9%	4.6%	4.9%	4.8%	4.9%
Army	4.1%	5.9%	5.6%	5.4%	5.9%
Royal Air Force	5.5%	5.6%	5.4%	4.0%	4.9%

Notes:

- 1) UK Regulars are Full-time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, but excluding Full Time Reserve Personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guard Service, Locally Employed Personnel and Non Regular Permanent Staff.
- 2) Figures include both Officers and Other Ranks.
- 3) Figures may include personnel who have joined more than once during the time period.
- 4) For Army, figures have been provided based on postcode at the time of recruitment, with input provided by both Defence Statistics(Army) and Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command. It was not possible to match the location for around 8% of Army personnel, some of whom could have resided in Wales.
- 5) Royal Navy/Royal Marines and Royal Air Force recruits have been interpreted as those who joined through Welsh Armed Forces Careers Offices.

Welsh Guards: Afghanistan

18 July 2018 | 645 c395

Asked by: Kwasi Kwarteng

What recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the Welsh Guards' tour of Afghanistan.

Answered by: Alun Cairns | Department: Wales

I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence about the armed forces in Wales, including about my recent visit to Kabul to meet the Welsh Guards. During the visit, I saw at first hand the important role that our servicemen and women play in the UK's operations, and I pay tribute to them.

Asked by: Kwasi Kwarteng

Does my right hon. Friend welcome the Prime Minister's announcement of an added commitment from the Welsh Guards to secure and to help NATO's capacity-building mission in Afghanistan?

Answering member: Alun Cairns

Having seen the Welsh Guards in action in Afghanistan, I have nothing but admiration and respect for the work that they do. The additional support to help them embed and the important steps they are taking to support the ongoing work of the Afghan Government will be extremely important, and I pay tribute to them for the work that they do.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

16 July 2018 | 163032

Asked by: Ian C. Lucas

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and what proportion of recruits to the armed forces came from (a) Scotland, (b) Wales, (c) Northern Ireland and (d) England in each of the last 5 years.

Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Ministry of Defence

The requested information is provided in the attached tables, based on single Service estimates. In the time available, it has not been possible to provide information for the Army. I will write to the hon Member with that information in due course: [Proportion of Armed Forces recruits from the UK](#).

Topical questions – Supplementary: Ministry of Defence

11 June 2018 | 642 c588

Asked by: David Hanson:

Will the ministerial team recognise the work of service dogs in the Army, Air Force and Navy, and in particular, welcome the establishment next week in this House of a memorial charity to those animals, to be based in Delyn constituency in north Wales?

Answered by: Mark Lancaster | Ministry of Defence

The right hon. Gentleman makes a very valuable point. All too often, when we talk about our armed forces, we think purely of humans, but of course, for many centuries, animals have made a fine contribution, too.

Armed Forces: Wales

06 March 2018 | 130680

Asked by: Stephen Doughty

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when the planned relocation of (a) 160 Brigade HQ and (b) HMS Cambria will take place.

Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Ministry of Defence

In relation to the relocation of 160 Brigade HQ I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 February 2018 to Question 126435.

On current plans, the Royal Navy expects to complete the relocation of HMS CAMBRIA in autumn 2019.

Military Bases: Brecon

13 February 2018 | 126435

Asked by: Stephen Doughty

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the expected date for completion of the transfer of HQ160 Brigade (Army) from Brecon to St Athan is.

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

As set out in the Better Defence Estates Strategy, announced by the former Secretary of State on 7 November 2016 (Official Report, column 1286), the Headquarters 160th Infantry Brigade and Headquarters Wales will be relocated within Wales from Brecon Barracks before the planned disposal of that site by 2027. Further details have yet to be confirmed.

Armed Forces: Wales**17 January 2018 | 121651****Asked by: Jonathan Edwards**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what estimate he has made the percentage of serving British Armed Forces personnel who were resident in Wales at the time of their recruitment.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence has made no such estimate. An exercise to collate the requested information could be conducted only at disproportionate cost.

Military Bases: Wales**15 January 2018 | 121594****Asked by: Jonathan Edwards**

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, which military bases, training centres, and other various military establishments are located in Wales.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Ministry of Defence

The following Ministry of Defence sites are located in Wales:

ABERTILLERY
 ABERYSTWYTH
 BLAINA RIFLE RANGE
 BRECON BKS HQ 160 BDE
 BRIDGEND, LITCHARDS X
 CAERNARFON
 CAERWENT TRAINING AREA
 CAPEL CURIG TRG CAMP
 CARDIFF, GABALFA
 CARDIFF, MORGAN ST
 CARMARTHEN
 CASTLEMARTIN TRAINING AREA
 COLWYN BAY
 CWMBRAN
 CWRT Y GOLLEN RFCA
 CWRT-Y-GOLLEN CAMP RFCA
 DENBIGH RIFLE RANGE
 DIO SDT HQ WALES (SENNYBRIDGE)
 KINMEL PARK RFCA
 LLANSILIN RIFLE RANGE
 FAIRBOURNE RESOURCE INITIATIVE TRAINING CENTRE
 FDTC CRICKHOWELL
 GORSEINON ARMY RESERVE CENTRE
 HAVERFORDWEST / CAWDOR BARRACKS (BRAWDY)
 HIGHTOWN BARRACKS
 HMS CAMBRIA - SULLY, NR CARDIFF
 HMS CAMBRIA TAWE DIVISION - SWANSEA (CO-LOCATED WITH
 ARMY IN GLAMORGAN STREET)
 INFANTRY BATTLE SCHOOL (IBS) BRECON
 JOINT SCHOOL FOR ADVENTUROUS TRAINING LLANRWST
 JSMTC INDEFATIGABLE

KINMEL RFCA
LAMPETER WETC
LLANDUDNO ARMY RESERVE CENTRE
MAINDY BARRACKS
MANORBIER RANGES
MERTHYR WETC
MOD RANGE ABERPORTH
MOD RANGE PENDINE
MOLD RIFLE RANGE
MONA AIRFIELD ANGLESEY
MONMOUTH (CASTLE)
MONMOUTH (VAUXHALL CAMP)
NEWPORT, RAGLAN
PENALLY (CAMP AND RANGES)
PONTYPRIDD ARMY RESERVE CENTRE
PRESTATYN
PWLLHOLM TRAINING AREA
RAF PEMBREY SANDS
RAF VALLEY
RHYL WETC
ROGIET MOOR RANGES
SEALAND RIFLE RANGES
SENNYBRIDGE TRAINING AREA
ST ATHAN
ST ATHAN WEST CAMP
SULLY
SWANSEA, GLAMORGAN ST.
SWANSEA, GRANGE
SWANSEA, MORFA
TEMPLETON TRAINING AREA
TY - ISAF BASE CAMP TALYBONT
WREXHAM
YNYS GAIN, MENAI BRIDGE

Armed Forces: Wales

12 January 2018 | 121603

Asked by: Jonathan Edwards

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many (a) civilian, (b) Royal Navy, (c) Army and (d) Royal Air Force personnel are stationed in each local authority area in Wales.

Answering member: Mark Lancaster | Ministry of Defence

The stationed locations of Ministry of Defence personnel based in Wales, by local authority area, can be found in tables 4.1a and 4.1b of the Quarterly Location Statistics. The latest figures can be found at the following address: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/location-of-uk-regular-service-and-civilian-personnel-quarterly-statistics-2017>.

4. Statements

[Defence Estate and Military Presence in Wales](#)

Welsh Government Cabinet Statement

10 December 2018

Alun Davies, Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public

Services: Last month I made a statement setting out our continued support for the Armed Forces community. In that statement I also sought to pay tribute to the valuable contribution that serving members of the Armed Forces and veterans, have played and continue to play in the defence of the UK.

Wales has always played its part in the history of the Armed Forces, not only by providing many recruits to the Services, but by providing a home for various military bases and establishments. Communities across the country have welcomed the Armed Forces and continue to do so.

When the outcome of Defence Estates Review was announced in November 2016, I was concerned to note the potential impact on the Armed Forces footprint in Wales. Whilst there would be a continued presence at the Infantry Training School in Brecon and at RAF Valley, the potential closure of 160 Brigade Headquarters, the movement of the 1st Battalion the Rifles from Beechley in Chepstow, and the movement of the 14th Signals Regiment from Brawdy, all have the potential to impact local communities as well as those serving personnel who are required to move.

But the impact of such decisions goes further than this. The Welsh Identity within the Armed Forces is an essential part of our national identity. It is of central importance to the future of our Union that our Armed Forces are based in all constitute parts of the UK and that all our nations are able to play their part in defending the UK and all our nations are represented in the decisions over bases and the MoD's wider estates strategy.

The MoD has also announced their intention to create a new base at St Athan which would provide the home for a significant Army presence. Whilst this development has the potential to create a significant new Army presence in South Wales, overall the net effect of the changes could result in a decrease in the overall numbers of Armed Forces personnel based in Wales. I do not want to see such a reduction. I want to see the military presence in Wales not simply preserved at current levels but expanded and grown.

I recently met Stuart Andrews MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the MoD to discuss these matters. I stressed the importance of the Armed Forces maintaining a strong presence in Wales, alongside the further development of industries and supply chains that support MoD procurement. I believe that it is vital that the Welsh and UK Governments continue to work closely together on all these matters.

In order to ensure that Wales will continue to provide a firm base for future location of serving personnel I have asked my officials to develop

a specific policy to ensure that Wales is in a position to provide this firm base and home for UK Armed Forces. I have also asked my officials to work with the MoD to develop a plan for the future which will ensure that Wales hosts a significantly increased number of serving personnel and will also continue to press the MoD to maintain the Headquarters base in Brecon.

I hope that we can work together to ensure that the interests of Wales, our serving Armed Forces communities, and the communities that support their presence in Wales, are at the forefront of MoD planning for the future.

5. Further reading

Committee reports

[The Armed Forces and Defence Industry in Wales](#)

Welsh Affairs Committee

HC 128

4 November 2019

Other publications

[MOD regional expenditure with UK industry and supported employment: 2017/18](#)

Ministry of Defence

31 January 2020

[Taking forward the findings of the Veterans Scoping Exercise in Wales and the Strategy for our Veterans](#)

Welsh Government

22 January 2020

Websites

[Armed Forces Covenant - National Wales Project](#)

Welsh Local Government Association

[Welcome to Wales: Supporting and investing in our Armed Forces Community in Wales](#)

Welsh Government

DEBATE PACK

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