



Ministry  
of Defence

# Ministry of Defence Statistics Plan

2016-17

# Contents

Contents .....	2
Foreword .....	3
Overview .....	4
Consultation Questions .....	5
Planned Work for 2016-17 .....	6
1. Official Statistics Publications .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Statistical Activities Completed (2014-15 to 2015-16) .....	7
Annex A: Existing Official and National Statistics .....	10

© Crown copyright, 2016

Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/> or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or e-mail: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

If you require this publication in an alternative format please email

[DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Consult@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Consult@mod.uk)

Any enquiries regarding this document / publication should be sent to us at:

Ministry of Defence  
Defence Statistics  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7807 8792

DATE 4 April 2016

# Foreword

We are publishing this Statistics Plan in the context of the Department's Single Departmental Plan and in accordance with the requirements set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. I am keen to hear, via the consultation associated with this draft plan, your views as users of MOD's statistics, in particular the use you make of them and whether the priorities identified here match yours.

The Plan sets out proposals for delivering Official and National Statistics that are intended to: serve the public good; meet the needs of users (both internally to MOD, and to Parliament and the wider public externally); and match the professional standards for 'Official Statistics' set out in the Code of Practice. MOD publishes a wide range of Official and National Statistics and this plan concentrates on any changes to those.

MOD also publishes a wide range of statistics that are not regular Official Statistics. For example, Parliamentary Question (PQ) and Freedom of Information (FOI) responses, or published reports rather than statistical bulletins. I am keen to hear users' views about which topics should be a priority for publishing regularly in statistical publications and handling as Official Statistics in future. MOD recognises that there may be other statistics that it would be helpful to publish regularly as Official Statistics (resources permitting), and this consultation welcomes views on what other statistics could helpfully be published on this, or indeed, other important and enduring topics.

We will publish a response to the consultation once we have considered, and where appropriate, acted on any feedback we receive in response to the consultation associated with this draft plan. The plan sets out our planned work for 2016/17. If required to do so, we may publish during the course of the consultation some of the new statistics proposed here. We also aim to respond to new demands for statistics, and so these may not all be captured in this Plan. We will not, however, make any changes proposed here to permanently reduce the frequency or change definitions without holding a consultation.

Derek Bird  
Head of Profession for Statistics  
Ministry of Defence

# Overview

The statistical products and services described in this Plan will be delivered in the context of the Department's Single Departmental Plan, and will be managed in a way that helps the Department to carry out its key responsibilities in each of the following areas:

- Finance & Economics
- Personnel
- Health of the Armed Forces
- Equipment of the Armed Forces
- Activities of the Armed Forces
- Other National Statistics and Official Statistics

The Department produces Official Statistics in accordance with the suite of statistical legislation that was enacted in 2007 and 2008 with the aim of enhancing public trust and confidence in Official Statistics, namely:

- The Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 which sets out the constitutional and functional arrangements that govern the production of Official Statistics in the UK
- The UK Government's Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008 which sets out the principles and rules governing access to Official Statistics in their final form before release.

In addition, all of our Official and National Statistics are managed in a way that meets the best practice standards set out in the statutory Code of Practice for Official Statistics<sup>1</sup> published by the UK Statistics Authority - an independent body reporting directly to Parliament, which is responsible for overseeing, promoting and safeguarding the production and publication of Official Statistics that serve the public good.

The Department currently publishes over 48 statistical products on either a regular or ad hoc basis using data gathered from a mixture of administrative and statistical sources. Of these Official Statistics, 17 are designated as National Statistics products – a label that signifies they have been judged to be fully compliant with the Code of Practice, and have been through a formal assessment of compliance by the UK Statistics Authority. All of the Department's National Statistics products have been assessed by the Authority and, in each case, their National Statistics designation has been confirmed. All of our Official and National Statistical products can be accessed via the 'Statistics' area of the Department's section on GOV.UK<sup>2</sup>.

## Management and deployment of statistical resources

As is the case with the majority of government departments in the UK, MOD has adopted a centralised approach to the deployment of statisticians and their support staff. The majority of our statistical staff are located with the Performance and Analysis organisation in two areas, Defence Statistics and Defence Economics. A small number of statisticians are out-bedded in administrative

---

<sup>1</sup> Code of Practice for Official Statistics  
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/>

<sup>2</sup> Statistics in Ministry of Defence on GOV.UK  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/statistics>

or policy areas and are responsible for the subject-matter covered by their statistics. As well as undertaking the purely statistical work described in this Plan, many statisticians also carry out analysis, data science, modelling and reporting work for policy colleagues within the department.

### **Professionalism and accountability**

All of the Department's statisticians and their support staff are members of the Government Statistical Service, a cross-government community. As well as being accountable to their own line-managers, MOD statisticians are also professionally accountable to the Department's Head of Profession for Statistics and, through the Head of Profession, to the National Statistician acting in their role as the Head of the Government Statistical Service. The Department's Head of Profession has been appointed by the Permanent Secretary in consultation with the National Statistician.

### **Scope of the 2016-17 Plan**

Only Official and National Statistics publications are covered in this Plan. The Plan does not cover the work of MOD in providing statistics by other means, for example in PQ or FOI responses, in other reports, or to support wider cross government debate or policy formulation. However, users' views are sought on which of the statistics published by those means could helpfully be presented in regular Official Statistics publications.

## **Consultation Questions**

Based on the work set out in this MOD Statistics Plan, we are interested in answers to the following questions:

1. Based on our plans to release some new publications or amendments, do any of these have any impact or consequences on your circumstances we should take into account?
2. Looking at the work that is planned for 2016/17, are there any activities you think should be higher or lower priority?
3. More generally, are there any other areas of MOD activity where we should be publishing Official Statistics in the public interest?

### **Timings**

This consultation will run for 6 weeks, from 4<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> May. This consultation complies with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultations.

### **Responding to the Consultation**

Please complete the online consultation form: <https://surveys.mod.uk/index.php/661122?lang=en>

If you have difficulties completing the online version, or would prefer to email/post your responses, please use the following contact details:

**Post:**

Defence Statistics (WDS),  
Ministry of Defence,  
Floor 3 Zone K,  
Main Building,  
Horse Guards Avenue,  
London, SW1A 2HB.

**Email:** [DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Consult@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Consult@mod.uk)

# Planned Work for 2016-17

This section sets out the planned statistical activity for the MOD in relation to Official and National Statistics. The MOD will continue to publish the existing Official and National Statistics as listed in Annex A. In addition, further details are provided below about a number of other development projects for new and existing Official Statistics.

## Finance & Economics

### **New Official Statistics: Regional Statistics**

We will be investigating the feasibility of producing new Official Statistics relating to regional direct MOD expenditure and defence dependent employment supported by that spending. This is in response to the outcome of the SDSR where measurement of the MOD's contribution to UK economic prosperity was prioritised under a new National Security Objective.

## Personnel

### **Royal Navy & Royal Marines Monthly Situation Report**

We intend to return to work started in 2015-16 to improve the presentation of this publication, with a view to make the style more consistent with the Monthly Service Personnel Statistics Report. If necessary we will carry out a public consultation.

### **Diversity Statistics**

We intend to start monitoring progress against the new gender and ethnicity targets for Armed Forces recruits. Targets have been set for 15 per cent of recruits to be women by 2020, and at least 10 per cent of recruits to be Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) personnel by 2020.

## Health of the Armed Forces

We will continue to expand the information provided in the Official Statistics including:

- Location of those who left the UK Armed Forces on a medical discharge.
- Waiting times for those claiming a War Pension.
- The numbers of early service leavers using the Career Transition Partnership services.

### **New Official Statistics: Annual Population Survey, UK Armed Forces veterans**

In April 2016, MOD will publish the first in a series of publications presenting information on UK Armed Forces veterans sourced from the ONS Annual Population Survey.

We will also continue to support the release of ad hoc statistical bulletins as required.

## Equipment of the Armed Forces

### **Equipment Statistics**

We are planning to review the Formations, Vessels and Aircraft National Statistics publication with the aim of improving the scope of these statistics to better meet users' needs. A [public consultation](#) was launched in March 2016.

## Surveys and Other Official Statistics

### **UK Defence in Numbers**

An updated version of this pocket size booklet detailing statistical information on key aspects of Defence (money, equipment, personnel, the estate etc.) will be launched during the summer. This compendium includes both official and non-official statistics.

### **Continuous Working Patterns Survey**

The report format has been reviewed and restructured ahead of the 2015/16 edition which is due for release in summer 2016. We also are planning to investigate the methodology of the Continuous Working Patterns Survey, specifically how we collect the data and the sample selection process.

### **New Official Statistics: Forces Help to Buy**

To be published in spring 2016, this new monthly statistical release provides summary statistics on applications and payments made under the Forces Help to Buy (FHTB) scheme. FHTB is an advance of salary scheme which was introduced in April 2014 and allows Regular Armed Forces personnel to borrow money in order to buy their first home or move to a new location.

### **New Official Statistics: Officer Cadet and Recruit Trainee Surveys**

Published for the first time in spring 2016 as Official Statistics, these are tri-Service attitude surveys which collect information on the backgrounds of Phase 1 recruits, Phase 2 trainees and officer cadets; their perceptions of training, facilities, food, support; and general perceptions of the course, fairness of treatment, and hopes for the future.

## **Statistical Activities Completed (2014-15 to 2015-16)**

### **Finance & Economics**

#### **Defence Inflation Estimates**

The statistical publication was reviewed and restructured to bring it into line with the standard bulletin format. It also includes a range of new data visualisations and a new, simpler methodology section.

#### **New interactive tool developed to accompany Trade, Industry and Contracts Statistics publication**

Alongside the annual statistical publication MOD published an [interactive treemap](#) which enables users to explore MOD's largest suppliers. This was launched as a prototype with the expectation that in future we will develop further interactive graphics to enable users to have greater flexibility to explore MOD trade, industry and contracts statistics.

### **Personnel**

#### **Review and restructuring of Service personnel statistic publications**

Following a review of the Service Personnel publications and a [public consultation](#), the Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Personnel Reports have been replaced with a new Monthly Service Personnel Statistics report. Statistics from the UK Reserve Forces and Cadets publication, the Service Personnel Bulletin 2.01 and the Service and Civilian Bulletin 2.03 can also be found in this release.

Further, statistics from the Diversity Dashboard, Quarterly and Annual Personnel Reports, Service Personnel Bulletin 2.01, the Annual Maternity Report and UK Reserve Forces and Cadets have been incorporated into a new Diversity Statistics publication. New statistics on UK Regular Forces outflow by nationality and Volunteer Reserve religion statistics have also been incorporated.

#### **Additional Service Personnel recruitment and Regular harmony statistics**

Following the review of the Service Personnel publications as reported in the 2014-15 Statistics Plan), statistics relating to applications to join the Armed Forces (as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 edition) and harmony (as of 1<sup>st</sup> August edition) have been added to the Monthly Service Personnel Statistics report.

#### **New Official Statistics: Civilian Sickness Absence**

Published in March 2016, this new publication provides the number of Average Working Days Lost for Civilian sickness absence and the number of actual working days lost. It also shows the cause of Civilian sickness absence by ICD 10 code.

## **Review of Royal Navy & Royal Marines Monthly Situation Report and Quarterly Pocket Brief**

A review of the Monthly Situation Report was completed in October 2015 and made a number of proposals for changes to the format and presentation of the publication. These changes have not yet been implemented. We intend to revisit this work in 2016-17 with a view to aligning the publication with the Monthly Personnel Statistics Report and will carry out a public consultation if necessary.

## **Health of the Armed Forces**

### **Reduction in frequency of Career Transition Partnership Statistics**

The Career Transition Partnership Official Statistics publication has been reduced from a quarterly to an annual report following a public consultation of the previous MOD Statistics Plan.

### **Reduction in frequency of Falklands Official Statistic**

Following a [public consultation](#), the Falklands Official Statistic will now be published every five years instead of annually, with the next edition released in spring 2019.

### **Reduction in frequency of Afghanistan Operational Casualty Official Statistics**

Following a [public consultation](#), a number of operational casualty Official Statistics have been reduced in frequency.

### **Reduction in frequency of UK Armed Forces Mental Health Quarterly report**

A [public consultation](#) was launched in March 2016. The MOD is proposing to reduce the frequency of these statistics to a mid-year report (to be published each November) with the more detailed annual report to be published in June each year.

### **New Ad hoc statistics: Mefloquine use in the UK Armed Forces**

In February 2016, the MOD published an [ad hoc bulletin](#) to support a House of Commons Defence Committee (HCDC) inquiry into the use of Mefloquine in the UK Armed Forces.

### **New Ad hoc statistics: Training and Exercise Deaths in the UK Armed Forces**

In February 2016, the MOD published an [ad hoc bulletin](#) to support a HCDC inquiry into the duty of care given to Service Personnel during military training: 'Beyond Endurance: Military Exercises and Duty of Care Inquiry'.

### **New Official Statistics: Types of Injuries sustained by UK Service Personnel**

In February 2016, the MOD published a one-off Official Statistics publication on types of injuries sustained by UK Service Personnel on operations in Afghanistan (Op HERRICK) between 1 April 2006 and November 2014. This report was published in response to an increasing number of requests for information on this topic.

### **New Official Statistics: UK Armed Forces Recovery Capability: Wounded, Injured and Sick in the recovery pathway**

In March 2016, MOD will publish the first in a series of publications on the numbers of UK Armed Forces personnel who are being managed through the recovery pathway as a result of battle injuries (wounded), injuries or sickness.

## **Equipment of the Armed Forces**

### **Equipment Statistics**

The MOD published regular annual publications on equipment: Formations, Vessels and Aircraft and Conventional Armed Forces in Europe: Equipment Holdings.

## Activities of the Armed Forces

### Search and Rescue Statistics

A [public consultation](#) was held on changes to MOD Search and Rescue statistics, the outcome of which was published in June 2015. The quarterly Search and Rescue report ceased publication in May 2015, and the final monthly and annual reports were published in February 2016.

### Operation HERRICK (Afghanistan) Aircraft Statistics

Originally proposed in the 2014-15 Statistics Plan, the MOD published a one-off Official Statistics [publication](#) in October 2015 on the use of aircraft on Operation HERRICK.

## Surveys

### Continuous Attitude Surveys

These reports were reviewed and restructured to bring them into line with the standard publication format. They also include a range of new data visualisations and the accompanying tables have been amended to better present the margin of error of each estimate.

### Tri-Service Families Continuous Attitude Survey

Following a review and public consultation of the Tri-Service Families questionnaire items in late 2014, the proposed changes were implemented in the 2015 questionnaires. The findings were published in July 2015.

### British Army Sexual Harassment Survey

The MOD published a non-Official Statistics [technical report](#) in July 2015 which detailed the findings of a study looking at the nature, prevalence and management of sexual harassment within the British Army.

## Other National and Official Statistics

### Cessation of UK Defence Statistics Compendium (UKDS) and Factsheet

Originally proposed in the 2014-15 plan, the production of UKDS and the accompanying Factsheet has ceased following a [public consultation](#) held during November and December 2015. The final UKDS was published in November 2014.

### UK Defence in Numbers

Following a request from Secretary of State, this pocket size booklet detailing statistical information on key aspects of Defence (money, equipment, personnel, the estate etc.) was launched in August 2015. A SDSR special version (SDSR Factbook) was also released to accompany the SDSR announcement in late November 2015. This special version was not an Official Statistics publication.

# Annex A: Existing Official and National Statistics

## 1. Finance and Economics

- Departmental Resources
- Defence Inflation Estimates
- Trade, Industry and Contracts
- International Defence Expenditure

## 2. Personnel

- Monthly Service Personnel Statistics
- Biannual Diversity Statistics
- Royal Navy and Royal Marines Quarterly Pocket Brief
- Royal Navy and Royal Marines Monthly Personnel Statistics
- MOD Sponsored Cadet Forces<sup>3</sup>
  
- Quarterly Civilian Personnel Report
- Civilian Personnel Bulletin<sup>4</sup>
- Civilian Performance Management Outcomes
- Biannual Civilian Diversity Dashboard
- Civilian Sickness Absence
  
- Quarterly Location Statistics (UK Regular Armed Forces and Civilians)

## 3. Health of the Armed Forces

- Deaths in Service
- Suicide and Open Verdict Deaths
- Land Transport Accident Deaths
- Operational Deaths Post World War 2
  
- UK Armed Forces and Civilian Operational Casualty and Fatality Statistics
- Patient Treatments Statistics
- Very Seriously Injured and Seriously Injured Tracking
- Amputation Statistics
- Types of Injuries sustained in Afghanistan
  
- Health and Safety Statistics
  
- Mental Health Annual/Quarterly Reports<sup>5</sup>
- NHS Commissioning Population Statistics
- Medical Discharges
- UK Armed Forces Recovery Capability: Wounded, Injured and Sick in the recovery pathway

---

<sup>3</sup> This is a new publication due for release in May 2016 which contains cadet statistics previously published in 'Reserves Forces and Cadet Strengths'.

<sup>4</sup> MOD is currently holding a [public consultation](#) to cease this publication.

<sup>5</sup> MOD is currently holding a [public consultation](#) to reduce the frequency of the UK Armed Forces Mental Health Quarterly Report.

- Falklands deaths
- Gulf 1 deaths
- Career Transition Partnership: Ex-Service Personnel Employment Outcomes
- War Pension Scheme
- Armed Forces Compensation Scheme
- Location of Armed Forces pension and compensation recipients

#### **4. Equipment of the Armed Forces**

- Military Formations, Vessels and Aircraft
- Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty: Equipment Holdings

#### **5. Activities of the Armed Forces**

- Military Aid to Civil Authorities: Fisheries Protection

#### **6. Surveys**

- Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey
- Tri Service Families Continuous Attitude Survey
- Tri Service Reserves Continuous Attitude Survey
- Armed Forces Continuous Working Patterns Survey

#### **7. Other National and Official Statistics**

- UK Defence in Numbers
- Service Family Accommodation
- UK Land Holdings