



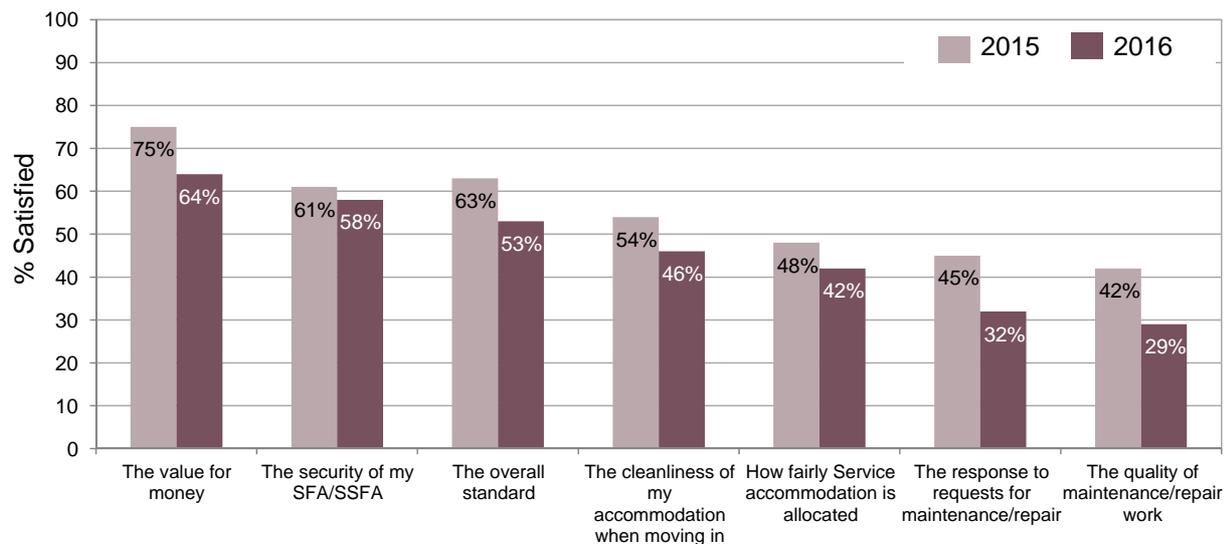
This statistical release provides Tri-Service results from the Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FAMCAS) 2016, along with results from previous years.

Statistics from FAMCAS are used by both internal MOD teams and external bodies to inform the development of policy and measure the impact of decisions affecting Service families, including major programmes such as the Armed Forces Covenant and New Employment Model.

Key Points and Trends

Satisfaction with Service and Substitute Service Family Accommodation (SFA/SSFA)

- In 2016 there have been decreases in satisfaction with all aspects of SFA/SSFA. This is likely to reflect, in part, underperformance by the National Housing Prime contractor and changes to the SFA charging method in April 2016.



Access to healthcare

- Overall there have been some small reductions in the ability of Service families to easily access healthcare services. For example, of the 86% of families who required access to dental treatment, 65% were able to access it without difficulties, compared to 68% last year.

Employment

- The proportion of spouses employed continues to increase; from 68% in 2014, to 72% in 2015 and now 75% in 2016.

Children's education

- In the past year, one fifth of Service families with school age children had a child/children who changed school for Service reasons.

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Background quality report: www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index

Would you like to be added to our **contact list**, so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk

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Reference tables for FAMCAS 2016 are published as separate documents and can be found on the FAMCAS webpage here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>

The reference tables contain the following information:

Annex A: A PDF copy of a single Service questionnaire

Annex B: A PDF copy of all FAMCAS items in table form by Service and Officer/Other Ranks. Section 8 contains a selection of FAMCAS items by Service and ‘Moved’ (for Service reasons) against ‘Not moved’. There is also an Excel version of Annex B which includes tables of additional breakdowns used to inform the commentary.

Annex C: Excel tables of all FAMCAS items by Location (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Non UK) and Officer/Other Ranks.

Narrative summary

About you

Separation differs greatly by Service. Royal Navy/Royal Marine (RN/RM) families are more likely to live separately from their spouse during the working week (36%) than Army (23%) or RAF (18%) families. They are also more likely to experience longer periods of separation; 24% of RN/RM families experience separation of more than 6 months compared to 11% of Army and 5% of RAF families. However, RN/RM families are much less likely to move due to Service reasons (14%) than Army (32%) or RAF (28%) families.

Armed Forces Covenant

Awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant has improved; 38% of families have never heard of the Covenant compared to 41% last year. There has also been an increase in the proportion of spouses registered to vote, up two percentage points to 82%.

Families more disadvantaged (23%) about housing than last year (18%). This year, families feel a little less positive about pride in their spouse being in the Service (79%; 2015: 82%), although this remains the aspect of Service life that families are most positive about. Families also feel less positive (30%) and more negative (32%) about family income/allowances compared to last year (33% and 27% respectively). Views on families' community support have improved with a six percentage point increase in feeling positive to 26%.

Childcare & children's education

The majority of those who needed early years (0-4 years) childcare were able to access it, although just over one in ten (12%) were unable to do so. Half of families who needed childcare were satisfied with the cost compared to 30% who were dissatisfied.

In the last 12 months 20% of families with school age children changed school for Service reasons and a further 9% changed school for other reasons. As expected, these families are more likely to experience difficulties with their children's schooling than those whose children did not move schools. Furthermore, families with children who moved schools for Service reasons are more likely than those whose children moved schools for other reasons to experience the following difficulties: syllabus differences, getting enough information about schools in their area, the school admission period not coinciding with notification of assignment, and continuing their child's education without a gap.

Deployment

There have been some decreases in levels of satisfaction with family support before, during and after deployments. For example, 36% are satisfied with the direct contact and support from their spouse's Chain of Command before the deployment compared to 42% last year. These changes are largely driven by Army families and may be partly due to changes in the types of deployments following the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Typically, RAF families make less use of support over the deployment period than Army and RN/RM families. This probably reflects how the different Services deploy, with RAF personnel being less likely to deploy as a unit than Army & RN/RM personnel¹. RN/RM families report lower levels of satisfaction with support compared to Army & RAF families. This may be a reflection of the higher proportions of RN personnel who felt that deployments were too frequent and too long compared to Army or RAF personnel¹.

¹ Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-2016>

Employment

The proportion of spouses in employment continues to increase from 68% (2014) to 75% (2016). The increase is greatest for Army spouses over this period (up 11 percentage points from 2014 to 72% in 2016), although Army Other Rank spouses still have the lowest proportion in employment (70%). Since 2014 there has been an increase of four percentage points in both the proportion of spouses in full-time (to 44%) and part-time (to 26%) employment. The proportion of spouses looking for a new job over the last 12 months remains unchanged (39%). The majority of these (69%) experienced difficulties finding a job.

Healthcare

The majority of those who required GP or hospital/specialist services were able to access them without difficulty (80% and 75% respectively). However, one in ten of those who required dental treatment were unable to access it, and a further quarter did so but with some difficulty. Of the 14% of families requiring mental health treatment, less than three fifths (57%) were able to without difficulty.

Small proportions of Service families move whilst undergoing healthcare treatment, but those who do are quite likely to experience problems continuing that treatment. For example of the 10% who moved whilst undergoing dental treatment, just 52% were able to continue without difficulty.

Housing

There have been large decreases in the levels of satisfaction with all aspects of Service (and Substitute Service) Family Accommodation (SFA/SSFA). This is likely to reflect, in part, underperformance by the National Housing Prime contractor and changes to the SFA charging method in April 2016.

Largely unchanged since 2012, 58% of Service families are home owners. One third (33%) of all Service families live in their own home (56% of RN/RM families live in their own home compared to 24% of Army and 36% of RAF families). Army (69%) and RAF (56%) families are more likely to live in SFA than RN/RM (35%) families. About three in ten families (29%) are not currently living in a privately owned home but would prefer to be. Affordability continues to be the most common reason for not owning a home.

Mobility

This section compares the views of the 28% of Service families who moved for Service reasons against the 63% who did not move.

Families who moved are much more likely to have children who moved school for Service reasons (72%) than those who did not move (2%). They also feel more disadvantaged about education than families who did not move.

Spouses who moved feel more negative about the effect Service life has on their career (62%) than those who did not move (51%). Those who moved are less likely to be employed, more likely to be looking for a job in the past year and less satisfied that their qualifications and skills match their job.

Families who moved feel both more advantaged and more disadvantaged about healthcare than those who did not move. Fewer families who moved were able to access dental treatment, GP Services and hospital/specialist services without difficulty.

Those who moved are more positive about the impact of Service life on their relationship with their spouse, Service provided facilities, opportunities for travel, knowing other military families and their families' community support than those who did not move.

Introduction

Please note that throughout this report the term 'married' is used to refer to those who are married or in a civil partnership and the term 'spouse' refers to spouse/civil partner.

FAMCAS aims to represent the views of the spouses of all Regular trained Service personnel. As at 1 April 2016 there were 139,960 trained UK Regular Armed Forces Personnel (including Gurkhas), approximately 66,830 (48%) of these are married¹ according to data from the Joint Personnel Administrative system (JPA). This differs slightly by Service; 54% of the RAF are married compared to 44% for RN/RM and 46% for Army. The majority of spouses (approximately 80%) live in England, whilst around 10% live outside the UK. Most of those living outside the UK are accompanying their serving spouse on an overseas assignment.

FAMCAS 2016 was distributed to a sample of 28,940 married trained Regular Service personnel between February and May 2016, using both paper and online questionnaires. Participants were chosen using stratified simple random sampling, designed to ensure sufficient responses from each Service and from each rank group within each Service, whilst minimising respondent burden. Overall, 8,086 responses were received, a response rate of 28% which is 3 percentage points higher than last year.

The Army and RAF used an online questionnaire for the first time this year, this led to an increase in missing responses for later questions due to an increase in partially completed questionnaires. Changes in gender and dual serving responses suggest that in some cases the Serving person completed some of the questionnaire rather than their spouse. The effect of this is examined more closely in the [Background Quality Report](#).

FAMCAS 2016 was distributed at a time of significant change for the MOD, including further reduction of Army personnel in Germany and the continuation of high-level change programmes such as the New Employment Model and the announcement of the new National Security Strategy following the Strategic Defence and Security Review of 2015.

The majority of questions only have two years of data, this is due to the considerable changes to the 2015 questionnaire following a full review by the FAMCAS working group.

Results from FAMCAS, along with those from companion surveys of Armed Forces ([AFCAS](#)) and Reservist Personnel ([RESCAS](#)), are used by the single Services, central MOD teams and certain external organisations to inform the development of policy and measure the impact of decisions affecting personnel and their families. For example, the schools admission code in England has been further amended so state school places can be allocated to Service families before they move into the area. It was noted in AFCAS this year that the impact of Service life on family and personal life remains the top reason for leaving the Armed Forces, as such the view of Service families are a useful aid to retention.

Please see the [Background Quality Report](#) which accompanies the 2016 report for full details of survey methodology, analysis, and data quality considerations.

Only differences that are statistically significant are commented on within this report; statistical tests were carried out at the 99% confidence level. This is at a fairly stringent level and means that there should be a less than 1% chance that differences observed in FAMCAS results are not representative of Service families as a whole. This reduces the likelihood of wrongly concluding that there has been an actual change based on survey results, which only cover a sample of Service families.

¹ Marital status is not captured on JPA so a Personal Status field is used as a proxy. This field is populated by the individual Service person.

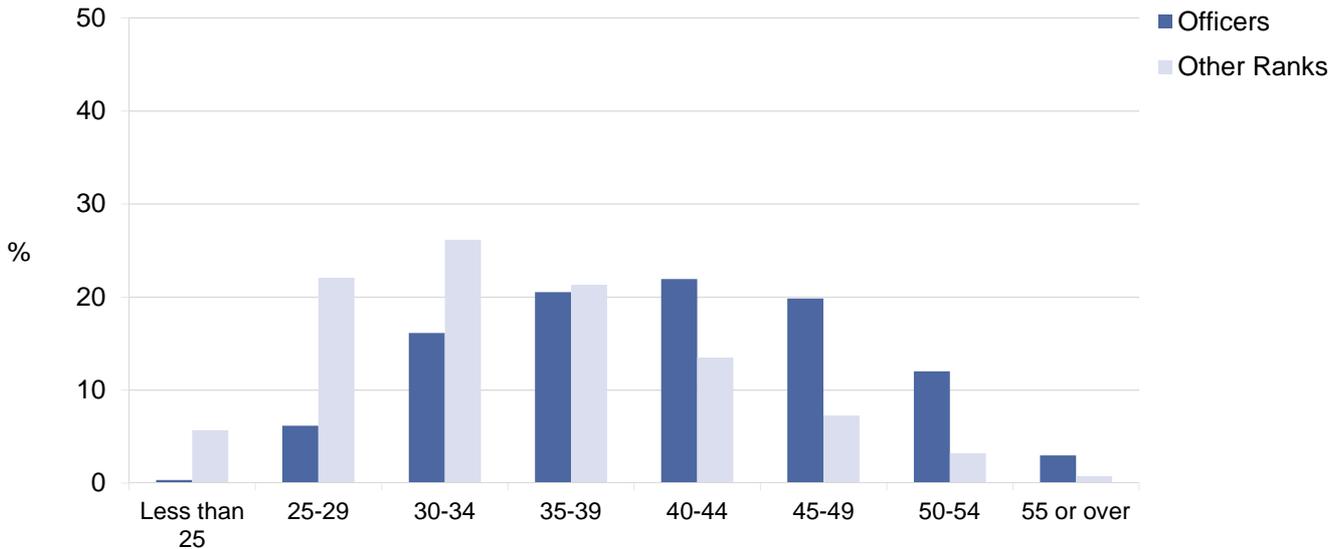
Section 1 - About You

Section 1 provides some insight into the demographics of Service spouses including age and whether they are employed, own their own home or have moved in the past year. This section also includes information on the family, the number of children and their ages. The final part of this section looks at separation.

About you and your family

Spouses of Other Ranks tend to be younger than those of Officers, which is to be expected as on average Officers are older than Other Ranks¹.

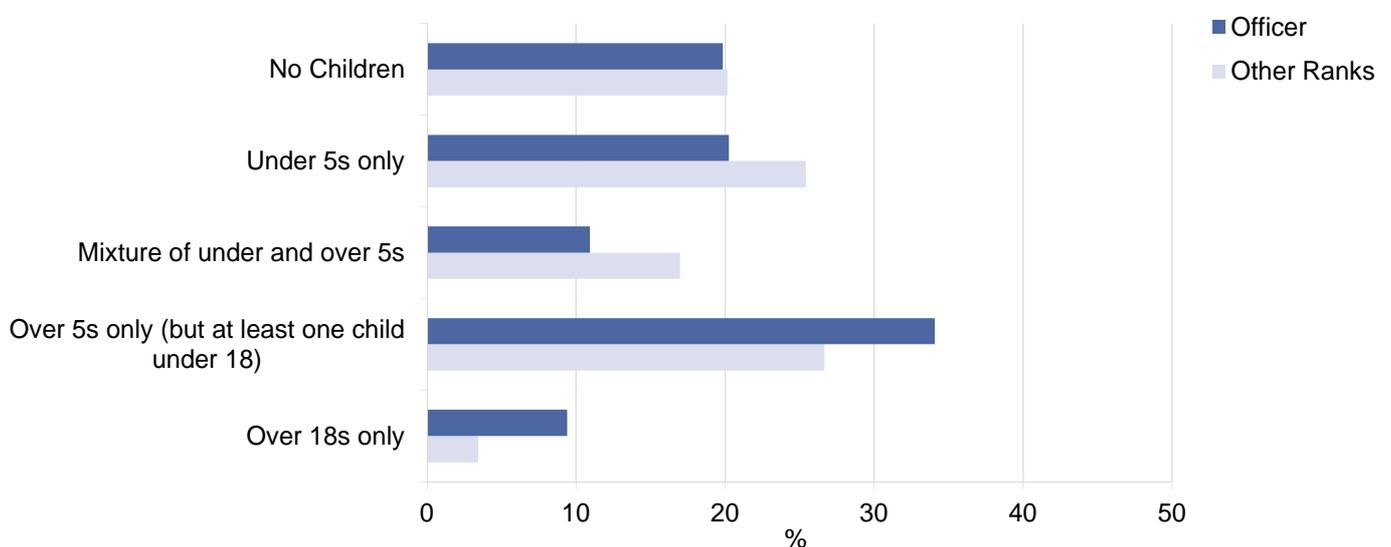
Chart 1.1 - Age profile of Service spouses



Three quarters (76%) of Service families have children, a figure that remains largely unchanged since 2012. One fifth (20%) do not have any children, just under a quarter (23%) have one child, 36% have two children and 14% have three or more.

Families of Other Ranks are more likely than Officer families to have younger children: 25% of Other Rank families have children aged under five only, compared to 20% for Officer families. Officer families are more likely to only have children aged over 18 (9%) than the families of Other Ranks (3%). This is somewhat expected as it reflects the difference in the age profile of Officer and Other Rank spouses.

Chart 1.2 - Age profile of Service families



¹ Source: [UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics 1 April 2016](#)

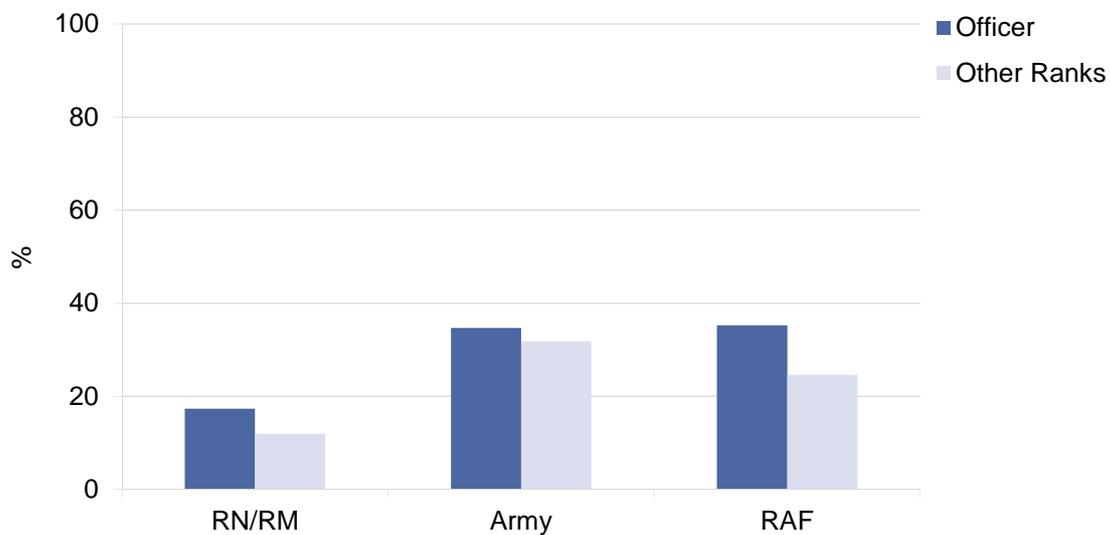
Employment, mobility and home ownership

Three quarters (75%) of Service spouses are employed (either full-time, part-time or self employed), an increase of 3 percentage points from last year. This increase is largely driven by an increase of Army Spouses in employment, from 67% in 2015 to 72% this year. Although the proportion of Officer spouses in employment differs little by Service, Army Other Rank spouses are less likely to be in employment (70%) than RN/RM (77%) and RAF (79%) Other Rank spouses.

Over the past year 28% of Service families have moved for Service reasons. There has been no change in this figure over the past four years. Chart 1.3 highlights the considerable Service differences in mobility. RN/RM families (14%) are much less likely to move for Service reasons than Army (32%) or RAF (28%) families.

Mobility can be a cause of disruption for many aspects of family life. These issues are discussed in more detail in Section 8 of this report.

Chart 1.3 - I have moved for Service reasons over the past year



Just under three fifths (58%) of Service families own their own home. Officer families (83%) are much more likely to own their own home than families of Other Ranks (50%). RN/RM families are the most likely to be home owners (75%) followed by RAF (65%) and then Army (50%) families. See Section 7 for more detail on housing.

Key Questions

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2015	% Change from 2014												
B1.9	I am employed. <i>Full-time, part-time or self employed.</i>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Service</th> <th>Officer (%)</th> <th>Other Ranks (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RN/RM</td> <td>75</td> <td>77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Army</td> <td>72</td> <td>67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAF</td> <td>79</td> <td>77</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Service	Officer (%)	Other Ranks (%)	RN/RM	75	77	Army	72	67	RAF	79	77	75	+3	+7
Service	Officer (%)	Other Ranks (%)															
RN/RM	75	77															
Army	72	67															
RAF	79	77															
B7.1	I am a homeowner.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Service</th> <th>Officer (%)</th> <th>Other Ranks (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RN/RM</td> <td>75</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Army</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAF</td> <td>65</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Service	Officer (%)	Other Ranks (%)	RN/RM	75	50	Army	50	50	RAF	65	50	58	↔	↔
Service	Officer (%)	Other Ranks (%)															
RN/RM	75	50															
Army	50	50															
RAF	65	50															
B1.7	I have moved for Service reasons in the past 12 months.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Service</th> <th>Officer (%)</th> <th>Other Ranks (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>RN/RM</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Army</td> <td>32</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAF</td> <td>28</td> <td>28</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Service	Officer (%)	Other Ranks (%)	RN/RM	14	14	Army	32	32	RAF	28	28	28	↔	↔
Service	Officer (%)	Other Ranks (%)															
RN/RM	14	14															
Army	32	32															
RAF	28	28															

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

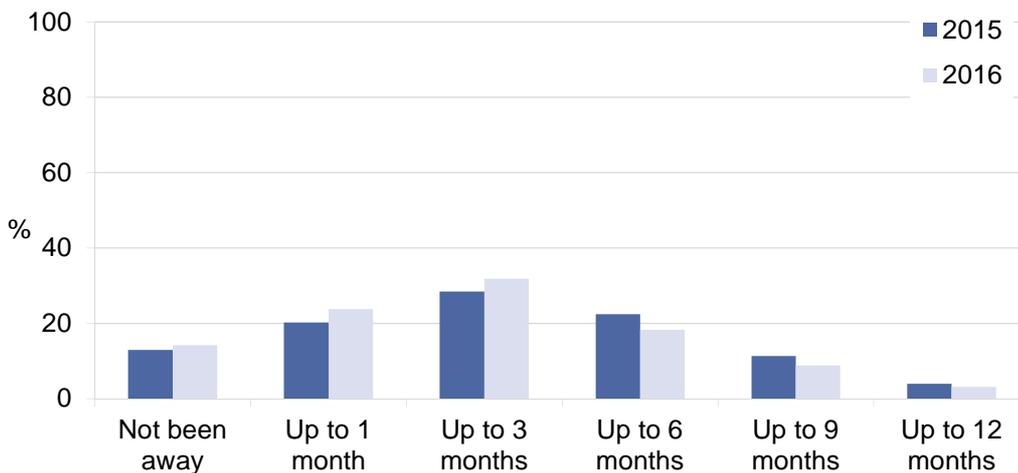
Separation

Nearly a quarter (24%) of spouses live separately the household member who is serving in the Armed Forces (serving spouse) during the working week, although this figure differs by Service and location. Due to accompanied postings, families living outside the UK are less likely to live separately (5%) than those living in the UK. As observed last year, RN/RM families (36%) are much more likely to live separately during the working week than Army (23%) or RAF (18%) families.

Despite a large majority of families seeing each other at least weekly (90%), there are still many families with high amounts of separation over the year. Overall 30% of families experience separation from the serving spouse of more than 3 months of the year, with 12% experiencing separation of more than six months. However, this is an improvement on last year (38% and 15% respectively).

Time away from home differs by Service: 46% of RN/RM families experienced separation of more than three months over the last year, which compares to 28% of Army and 23% of RAF families. Similarly, 24% of RN/RM families experience separation of more than six months compared to 11% of Army and 5% of RAF families.

Chart 1.4 - Amount of time my spouse has spent away from home for Service reasons over the past year



AFCAS 2016 Comparison²

36% of married Service personnel were away from home for more than three months and 12% were away for more than six months.

This compares to 56% and 29%, respectively for single Service personnel.

Key Questions - Separation

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2015	% Change from 2014
B1.3	I live separately from my spouse during the working week.		24	↔	N/A
B1.5	I see my spouse at least weekly.		90	↔	N/A
B1.6	My spouse has been away from home for more than 3 months.		30	-8	N/A

Includes those who live together and see each other weekly.

In the past 12 months

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

² Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-2016>

Section 2 - Armed Forces Covenant

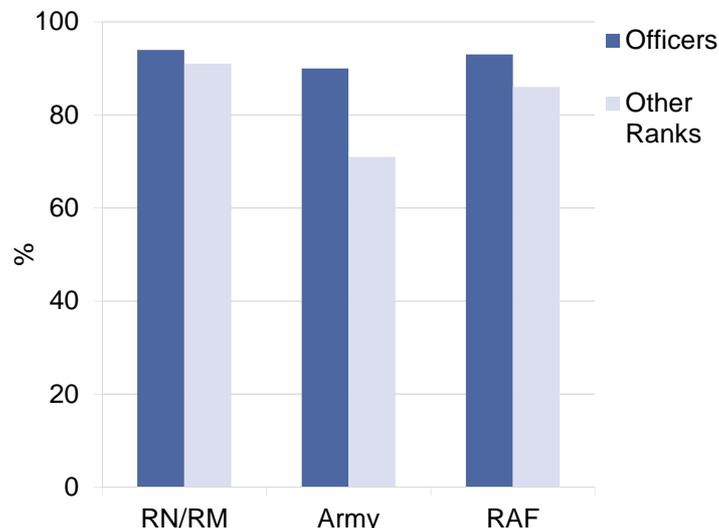
Section 2 covers voting registration as well as a number of questions related to the Armed Forces Covenant. These questions measure whether families feel advantaged or disadvantaged compared to the general public, and how positive or negative they feel about particular aspects of Service life.

Voter Registration

The number of spouses registered to vote has increased by two percentage points to 82% since 2015. A higher proportion of RN/RM spouses are registered voters (92%) compared to RAF (88%) and Army spouses (75%). These differences are largely driven by the lower proportion of Army Other Rank spouses who are registered to vote (71%).

Spouses living in Northern Ireland (59%) and outside the UK (29%) are less likely to register to vote without difficulty compared to those based in other locations.

Chart 2.1 - I am currently registered to vote



Awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant

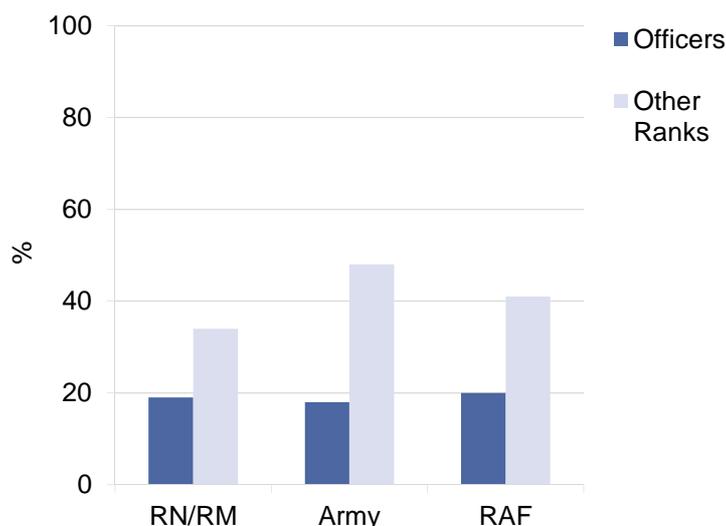
The [Armed Forces Covenant](#), announced by the Government in May 2011, sets out how Armed Forces personnel and their families can expect to be treated by the Government and the rest of the country in a number of areas including housing and healthcare.

The proportion of spouses who have 'never heard of' the Covenant has decreased to 38% from 41% in 2015. This fall is largely driven by RAF (41% to 35%) and RN/RM spouses (34% to 29%).

AFCAS 2016 Comparison¹

Just over a quarter (27%) of Service personnel have 'never heard of' the Covenant.

Chart 2.2 - I have never heard of the Armed Forces Covenant



42% of spouses have heard of and know at least a little about the Covenant, with Officer spouses (62%) more likely to know at least a little than Other Rank spouses (35%).

AFCAS 2016 Comparison¹

Amongst Service personnel, Officers are more likely to know a little about the Covenant (60%) compared to Other Ranks (38%).

¹ Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-2016>

Positive and negative aspects of Service life

'Pride' in their spouse being in the Service is still the aspect of Service life that families feel most positive about (79%), despite a three percentage points decrease since 2015. A higher proportion of Army spouses (83%) feel positive about 'Pride' in comparison to RN/RM (79%) and RAF families (70%).

More families feel negative about the 'Amount of separation from spouse/civil partner' than any other aspect of Service life (57%). In comparison to Army (53%) and RAF families (58%), considerably more RN/RM families feel that the amount of separation is a negative aspect of Service life (67%).

The effect of Service life on spouses' careers is more likely to be considered a negative aspect for those who indicated that they are unemployed i.e. not working full/part-time or self employed (63%), compared to those who are employed (51%).

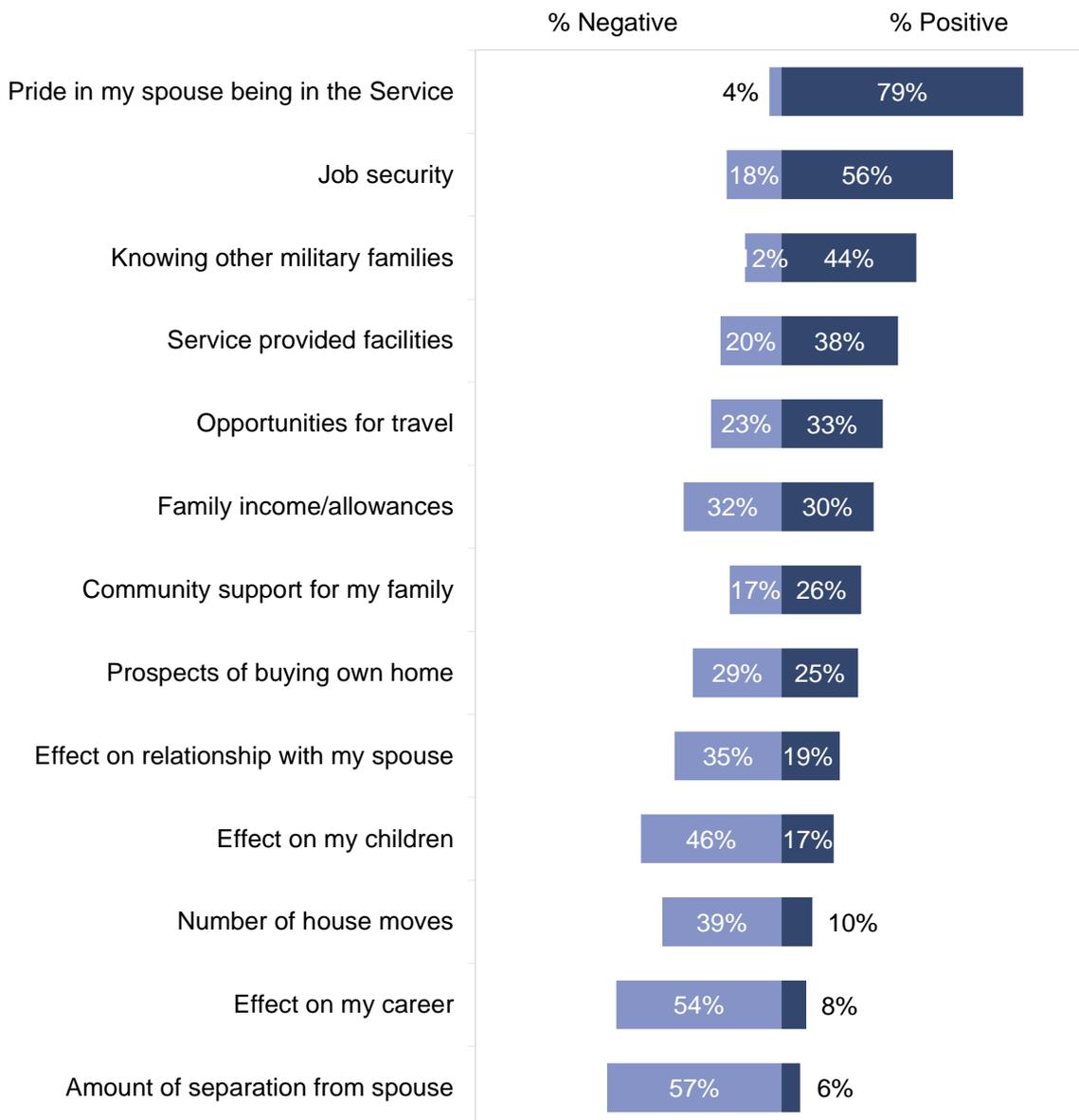
Whilst Army Other Ranks families feel the most positive about 'Service provided facilities' (2016: 44%; 2015: 39%), Army Officer families feel the most negative about this aspect (2016: 27%; 2015: 17%).

Families feel less positive about 'family income/allowances' (30%) compared to 2015 (33%), with Officers more likely to feel positive (35%) than Other Ranks (28%).

Data Quality Note

'Neither positive or negative' and 'Not applicable' responses have been excluded from comparison in Chart 2.2.

Chart 2.3 Positive or negative aspects of Service life (Ordered by positive %)



SUBSET: 'Effect on my children' responses based on those with children (76%).

Feelings of being advantaged or disadvantaged compared to the general public

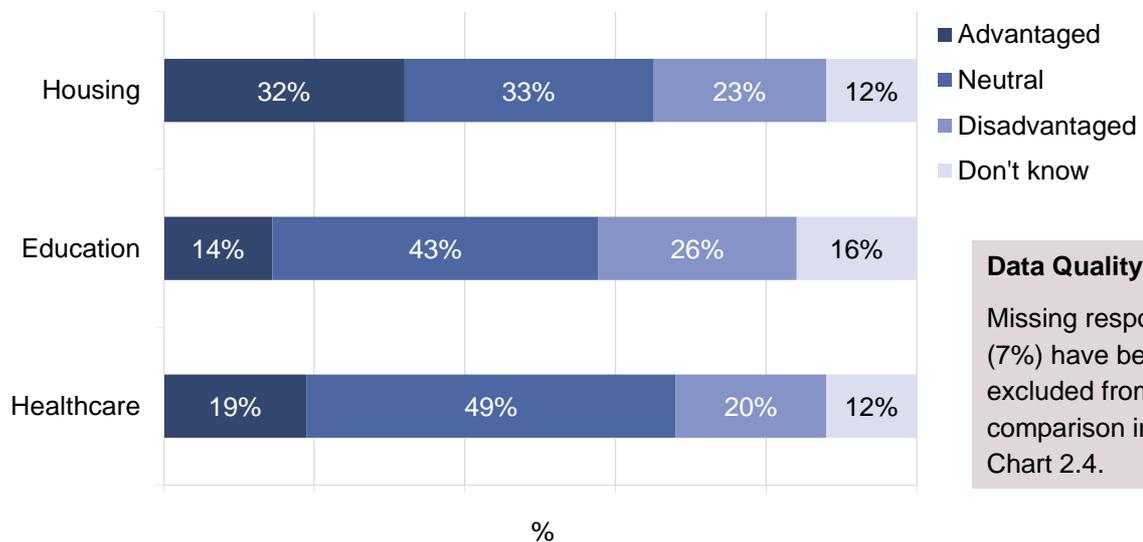
Although housing is still the issue that families feel most advantaged about (32%), a higher proportion of families feel disadvantaged (23%) about housing in comparison to 2015 (18%). This increase in feeling disadvantaged in relation to housing is evident across all three Services and is reflected in the decline of satisfaction levels with various aspects of Service Family Accommodation (see Section 7 for more information).

Nearly half of families feel neutral about healthcare (49%), with a higher proportion of Other Ranks families (20%) feeling more advantaged compared to Officers families (14%). Families living outside the UK are more likely to feel advantaged about healthcare (38%) and education (26%) compared to those living in the UK.

AFCAS 2016 Comparison²

Service personnel feel more neutral about housing (Advantaged: 28%; Disadvantaged: 19%).

Chart 2.4 - How advantaged do families feel about key Covenant issues compared to the general public?



Data Quality Note

Missing responses (7%) have been excluded from comparison in Chart 2.4.

Service comparisons

The three Services operate differently, with quite different approaches to family life. RN/RM families are less likely to move for Service reasons and less likely to live with their spouse. They are more likely to experience longer periods of separation and more likely to own and live in their own home. Army personnel typically move and deploy as units so their families are more likely to move for Service reasons and more likely to accompany their spouse on an overseas assignment.

These different approaches can have an impact on families' attitudes about Service life. RN/RM spouses feel more negative about the effect on their children (54%) than Army and RAF families (both 44%), as well as the effect on their relationship with their spouse (RN/RM: 41%, Army: 33%, RAF 36%). They feel less positive about knowing other military families (37%) and community support for their family (13%). RN/RM spouses also feel more negative about the amount of separation from their spouse (67%). However, RN/RM spouses feel much more positive about family income/allowances (42%) than Army (26%) and RAF spouses (28%), as well as job security (RN/RM: 70%; RAF: 56%; Army: 51%). They also feel less negative about the number of house moves and the prospects of buying their own home.

Army spouses are more positive about opportunities for travel (38%) than RAF (29%) and RN/RM (26%) spouses and knowing other military families (Army: 48%; RAF: 42%; RN/RM: 37%). They are also more positive about Service provided facilities (43%) and are more proud of their spouse being in the Army (83%).

² Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-2016>

Key Questions - Armed Forces Covenant

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2015	% Change from 2014
B2.3	I have never heard of the Armed Forces Covenant.	<p>Bar chart for B2.3: RN/RM (38%), Army (42%), RAF (35%). X-axis 0-100.</p>	38	-3	N/A
B2.4	I feel advantaged compared to the general public about housing.	<p>Bar chart for B2.4: RN/RM (32%), Army (35%), RAF (30%). X-axis 0-100.</p>	32	-3	N/A
B2.5	I feel disadvantaged compared to the general public about education.	<p>Bar chart for B2.5: RN/RM (26%), Army (30%), RAF (30%). X-axis 0-100.</p>	26	2	N/A
B2.6	I feel advantaged compared to the general public about healthcare.	<p>Bar chart for B2.6: RN/RM (19%), Army (22%), RAF (20%). X-axis 0-100.</p>	19	↔	N/A
B2.8	I feel negative about the effect on my children	<p>Bar chart for B2.8: RN/RM (46%), Army (45%), RAF (45%). X-axis 0-100.</p>	46	↔	N/A
<i>SUBSET: Has children (76%)</i>					
B2.9	I feel positive about Service provided facilities.	<p>Bar chart for B2.9: RN/RM (38%), Army (45%), RAF (35%). X-axis 0-100.</p>	38	5	N/A
B2.11	I feel negative about the number of house moves.	<p>Bar chart for B2.11: RN/RM (39%), Army (42%), RAF (45%). X-axis 0-100.</p>	39	↔	N/A
B2.14	I feel positive about community support for my family.	<p>Bar chart for B2.14: RN/RM (26%), Army (30%), RAF (32%). X-axis 0-100.</p>	26	5	N/A
B2.15	I feel negative about the amount of separation from my spouse.	<p>Bar chart for B2.15: RN/RM (57%), Army (55%), RAF (58%). X-axis 0-100.</p>	57	↔	N/A
B2.19	I feel positive about job security.	<p>Bar chart for B2.19: RN/RM (56%), Army (52%), RAF (55%). X-axis 0-100.</p>	56	↔	N/A

↔ indicates no significant change has been found

Section 3 - Childcare and Children's Education

Section 3 focuses on families with children, particularly their ability to access childcare and satisfaction with local childcare facilities. This section also covers the difficulties families experience in relation to their children's schooling.

Service families with children

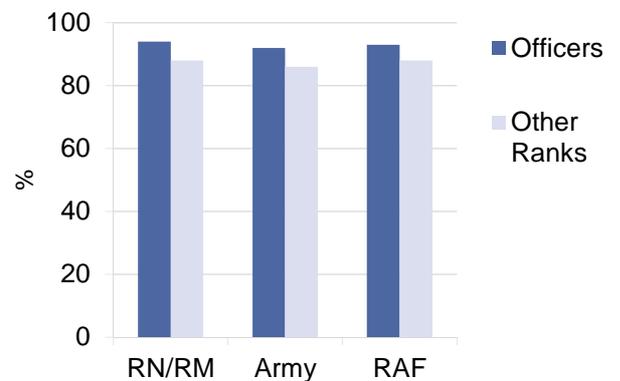
Three-quarters (76%) of families have children, a figure that has remained unchanged since 2012. Other Rank families are more likely to have at least one child under five years (42%; Officer families: 31%), and at least one child aged 5-11 (35%; Officer: 29%). Officer families are more likely to have at least one child aged 12-17 years (23%; Other Rank: 17%). These differences are reflected in the age distribution of Service personnel as Officers are on average older (37) than Other Ranks (29)¹.

Early years (0-4 years) childcare

A third (35%) of families with children needed early years childcare. Early years childcare is accessible to the majority of families who need it, with just one in 10 (12%) unable to access it. However, Officer families are more likely to be able to access it (93%) than Other Rank families (87%).

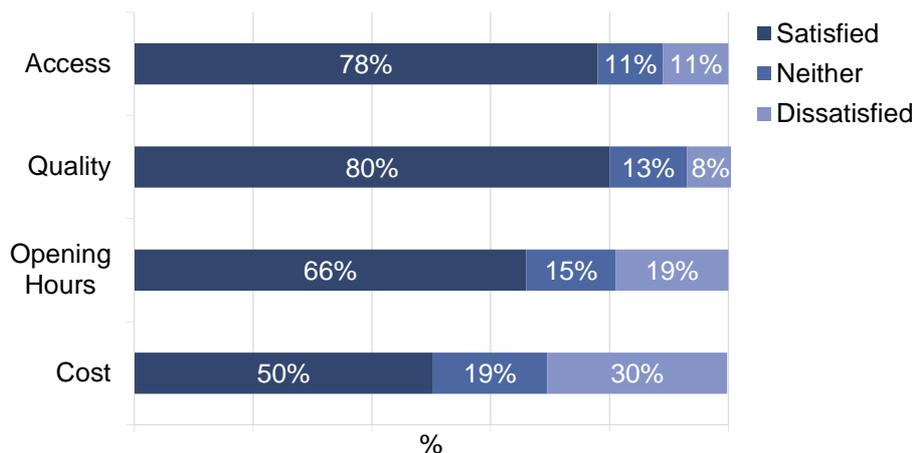
Chart 3.2 indicates that a small proportion of families with children who needed childcare, are dissatisfied with the quality (8%) and access (11%) of their local early years childcare facilities. Nearly a fifth (19%) are dissatisfied with the opening hours and just under a third (30%) with the cost of the facilities. These results are broadly in line with 2015 despite a change in the question wording this year to focus solely on early years childcare.

Chart 3.1 - I was able to access early years childcare in the last 12 months



SUBSET: Includes those who have children and needed early years (0-4 years) childcare (28%).

Chart 3.2 - How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your local early years childcare facilities?



SUBSET: Includes those who have children and needed early years childcare (28%).

Cost may be a contributing factor in accessing early years childcare as Officer families, who are more able to access childcare, are also more satisfied with cost (59%) than Other Rank families (48%). Whilst satisfaction levels for opening hours and cost are the same across the Services, RN/RM families are more satisfied with access and quality (both 85%).

Families who accessed childcare are more satisfied with these four aspects of their local childcare facilities than those who could not access it.

¹ Source: [UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics 1 April 2016](#)

Before and after school care

Nearly half of families (48%) have at least one child of school age, of whom 44% have needed before or after school care in the last 12 months. Around two-thirds of families who require before or after school care are satisfied with the availability (64%) and quality (68%) of that care. There are no differences in satisfaction across the Services, locations, or between Officers and Other Ranks families.

The demand for before or after school care is highest amongst families with younger children. Over half of families with children aged 5-11 years (53%) require this form of childcare, compared to 28% of families with children aged 12-17 years.

Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA)

CEA is an allowance offered by the MOD to provide children with continuity in their education, and enable the spouses of Service personnel to accompany them on postings².

12% of Service families with school age children receive CEA, a decrease of two percentage points since 2015.

Officer families (25%) are more likely to be in receipt of CEA compared to Other Rank families (8%). This difference is reflected by the higher proportion of Officer families with school age children attending independent boarding and day schools.

Types of schooling

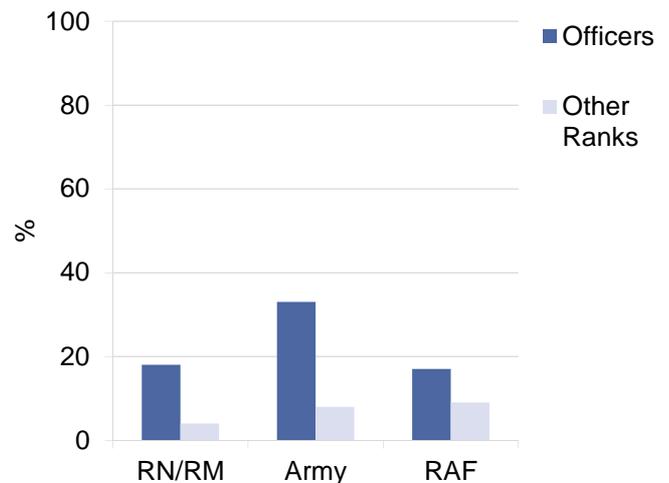
The majority of families with school age children have a least one child at a state school (76%). Furthermore, 9% of families with school age children have at least one child at an independent boarding school, 8% at a Service school, 7% at an independent day school and 2% at a state boarding school.

A higher proportion of RN/RM families with school age children have at least one child at a state school (83%) compared to RAF (76%) and Army families (74%).

Other Rank families are more likely to have at least one child at a state school (80%), or at a Service school (10%) compared to Officer families (65% and 4% respectively). Officer families are more likely to have at least one child at an independent boarding school (22%), or at an independent day school (14%) compared to Other Rank families (5% and 4% respectively).

Since 2015, there has been a decrease in the number of Army Other Rank families who have at least one child at a Service school (from 13% to 11%). There has also been a ten percentage points decrease in families living outside the UK with at least one child at Service school (from 76% to 66%). These reductions may be due in part to Service families rebasing from Germany. The Armed Forces Covenant Report³ 2015 states that “during 2015, 1,200 children from Service families have successfully transitioned back to the UK”.

Chart 3.3 - I receive Continuity of Education Allowance



SUBSET: Includes those who have school age children (76%).

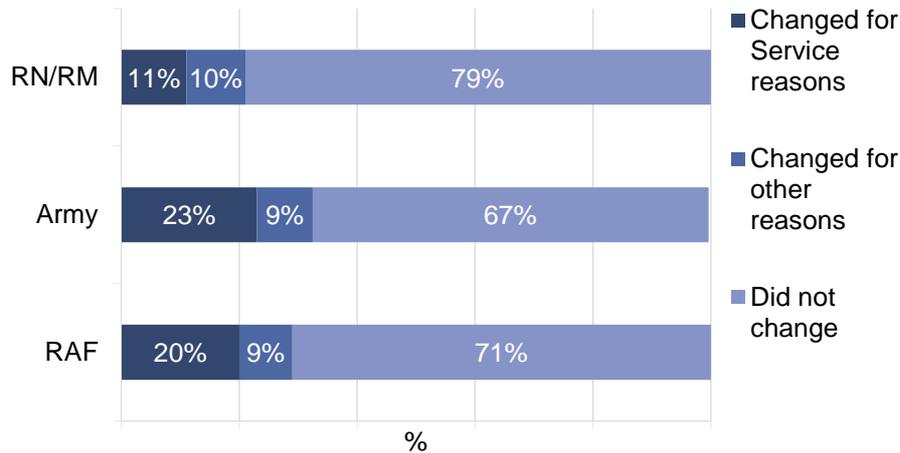
²Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childrens-education-advisory-service>

³Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report-2015>

Changing schools

In the last 12 months, a fifth of families with school age children had to change schools due to Service life. 9% of families had to change schools for other reasons. Changing schools for Service reasons is less likely to be an issue for RN/RM families (11%) compared to Army (23%) and RAF families (20%). Despite nearly a quarter (23%) of Army Other Rank families still changing schools for Service reasons, this is six percentage points lower than in 2015 (29%).

Chart 3.4 - Did any of your children change schools in the last 12 months?



SUBSET: Includes those who have school age children (48%).

Difficulties experienced with children's schooling

Chart 3.5 shows the five most common difficulties experienced by Service families in relation to their children's schooling. 64% of families with school age children did not experience any difficulties. A higher proportion of RN/RM families did not experience any difficulties (74%) compared to other Service families. Although relatively small, the proportions of Officer families experiencing problems either with, getting a place at the school of their choice (13%), a lack of places at their local school (9%) or obtaining enough information about local schools (8%) have increased since 2015. Similar proportions of Other Rank families also experience these difficulties.

Chart 3.5 Top 5 most common difficulties experienced

	% of families with school age children
I did not experience any difficulties	64
Getting a place at the school of your choice	13
Differences in syllabus	10
Unsuitable educational standard of your local school	9
Distance to school	9

Data Quality Note

These figures exclude missing responses i.e. those that did not tick any of the options listed (9%).

SUBSET: Includes those who have school age children (48%).

There are some differences in the difficulties experienced by families with school age children who changed schools for other reasons and those who changed schools for Service reasons. For example, families who changed for Service reasons are more likely to experience difficulties with syllabus differences (25%) and the school admission period not coinciding with notification of assignment (17%) than those who changed for other reasons (12% and 6% respectively). However, Special Educational Needs difficulties are more likely to be experienced by those families who changed schools for other reasons (13%) compared to Service reasons (6%).

Families with school age children who changed schools for Service reasons are more likely to experience difficulties than those who did not change schools. These findings are explored further in Section 8.

Moving to a new primary or secondary school

Over the last 12 months, a quarter (27%) of Service families with children aged 5-11 years had to move their children to a new primary school. RN/RM families are least likely to have at least one child who moved to a new primary school (18%) compared to Army (30%) and RAF (27%). This may be due in part to RN/RM families being less mobile overall. 16% of families with children aged 12-17 years had at least one child who moved to a new secondary school.

Key Questions - Childcare and children's education

Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2015	% Change from 2014
B3.9	Needed early years (0-4yrs) childcare.	<p>RN/RM Army RAF</p>	35	N/A	N/A
SUBSET: Families with children (76%).		0 20 40 60 80 100			
B3.10	Needed early years (0-4yrs) childcare and was able to access it.	<p>RN/RM Army RAF</p>	88	N/A	N/A
SUBSET: Families with children who needed childcare (28%).		0 20 40 60 80 100			
B3.11	Satisfaction with access of local early years (0-4 years) childcare.	<p>RN/RM Army RAF</p>	78	N/A	N/A
SUBSET: Families with children who needed childcare (28%).		0 20 40 60 80 100			
B3.12	Satisfaction with the quality of local early years (0-4 years) childcare.	<p>RN/RM Army RAF</p>	80	N/A	N/A
SUBSET: Families with children who needed childcare (28%).		0 20 40 60 80 100			
B3.19	Have at least one child at a state school.	<p>RN/RM Army RAF</p>	76	N/A	N/A
SUBSET: Families with school age children (48%).		0 20 40 60 80 100			
B3.26	Did not experience any difficulties with their children's schooling.	<p>RN/RM Army RAF</p>	64	N/A	N/A
SUBSET: Families with school age children (48%).		0 20 40 60 80 100			
B3.29	Had difficulty getting a place at the school of choice.	<p>RN/RM Army RAF</p>	13	N/A	N/A
SUBSET: Families with school age children (48%).		0 20 40 60 80 100			
B3.40	Children changed schools for Service reasons in the last 12 months.	<p>RN/RM Army RAF</p>	20	N/A	N/A
SUBSET: Families with school age children (48%).		0 20 40 60 80 100			
B3.41	I had no children move to a new primary school.	<p>RN/RM Army RAF</p>	73	N/A	N/A
SUBSET: Families with primary school age children (33%).		0 20 40 60 80 100			

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

Section 4 - Deployment

Section 4 covers spouses' experiences of the support and information services available to them before, after and during their spouse's deployment.

Background information on deployment

The end of combat operations in Afghanistan in autumn 2014 reduced the numbers of Service personnel deployed on operations. Although deployment in terms of numbers over the past 18 months has reduced greatly, the type of Operations the UK forces have been involved in has broadened¹. The nature of the deployments in the past year has leant more towards deploying at short notice in a wider spread of locations often to aid in humanitarian crises such as the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and the earthquake in Nepal.

There are Service differences between deployments. Historically RN/RM and Army personnel have deployed as whole units, whilst RAF were more likely to deploy as individuals. AFCAS 2016² reported an increase in the proportion of RAF personnel deploying as a unit this year, although they are still more likely to deploy as individuals². AFCAS 2016² results also showed higher proportions of RN personnel who felt that their deployments were too frequent and too long when compared to Army or RAF personnel.

Use of support

Overall the majority of families know where to go for welfare support and information provided by the Services (64%). Although this result is lower for RN/RM families (55%) than for Army or RAF families (68% and 65% respectively).

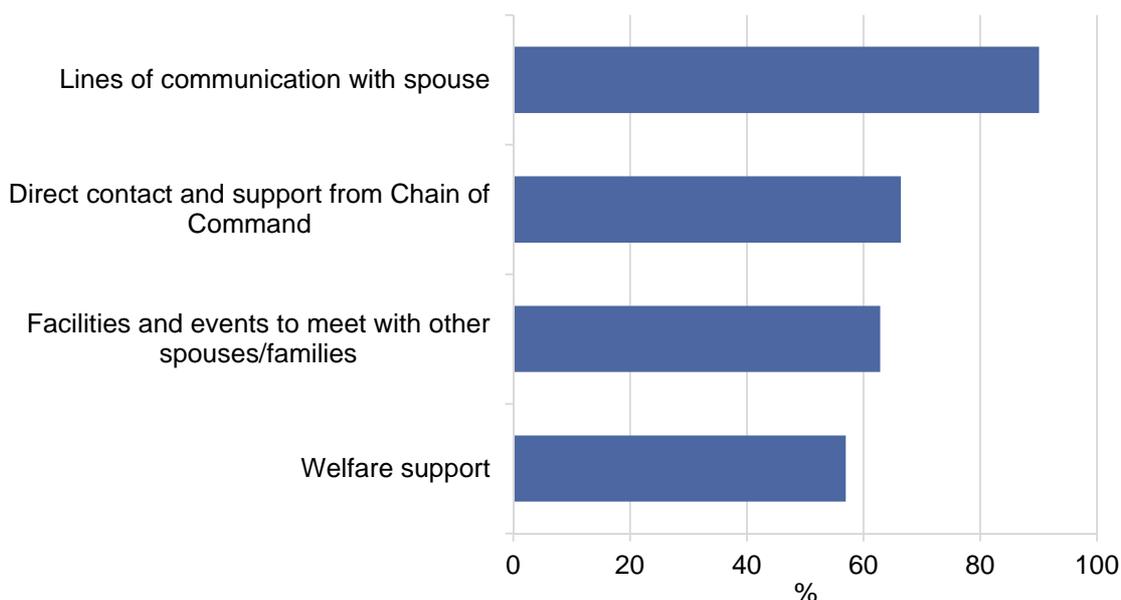
The levels of use of support differ by the type of support, the time period (before, during or after deployment) and by Service.

Chart 4.1 shows that during deployment, lines of communication with spouse was the most widely used (90%) whilst welfare support was least used (57%). A similar picture of lower usage of welfare support compared to other types of support was observed for both before and after deployment.

Data Quality Note

The results on use of and levels of satisfaction with deployment support, only include those whose Serving spouse has been on a deployment in the past 2 years.

Chart 4.1 - Use by type of support during deployment

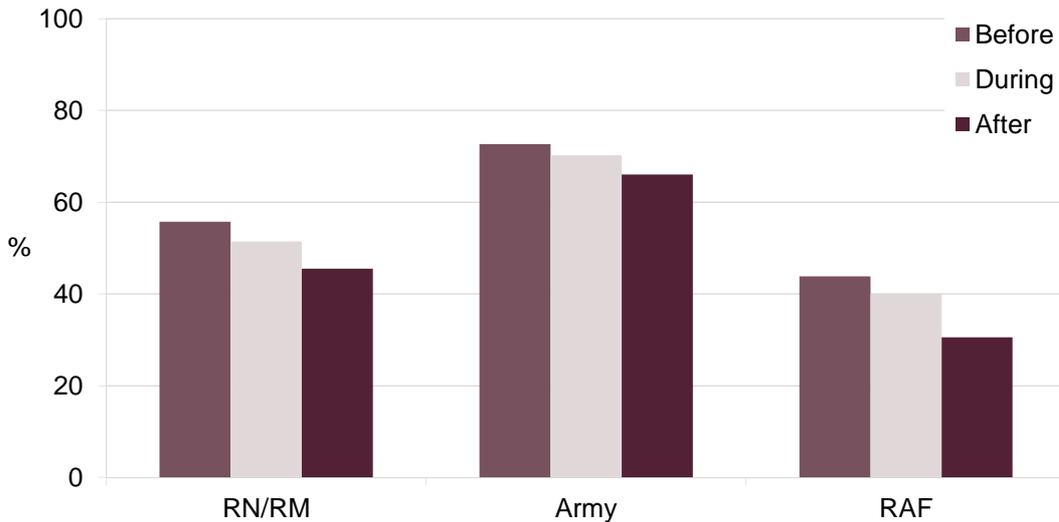


Figures on 'Use' of support have been derived by summing those with a valid level of satisfaction i.e. those who did not tick 'did not use'.
SUBSET: Those whose serving spouse has been on a deployment within the past two years (44%)

¹ Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministry-of-defence-annual-report-and-accounts-2014-to-2015>

² Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-2016>

Chart 4.2 - Use of welfare support before, during and after deployment



Figures on 'Use' of support have been derived by summing those with a valid level of satisfaction i.e. those who did not tick 'did not use'.
 SUBSET: Those whose serving spouse has been on a deployment within the past two years (44%)

As shown in Chart 4.2, usage of welfare support is greater before and during deployment than afterwards. This difference is also observed in the usage of facilities/event to meet other families and direct contact and support from the Chain of Command.

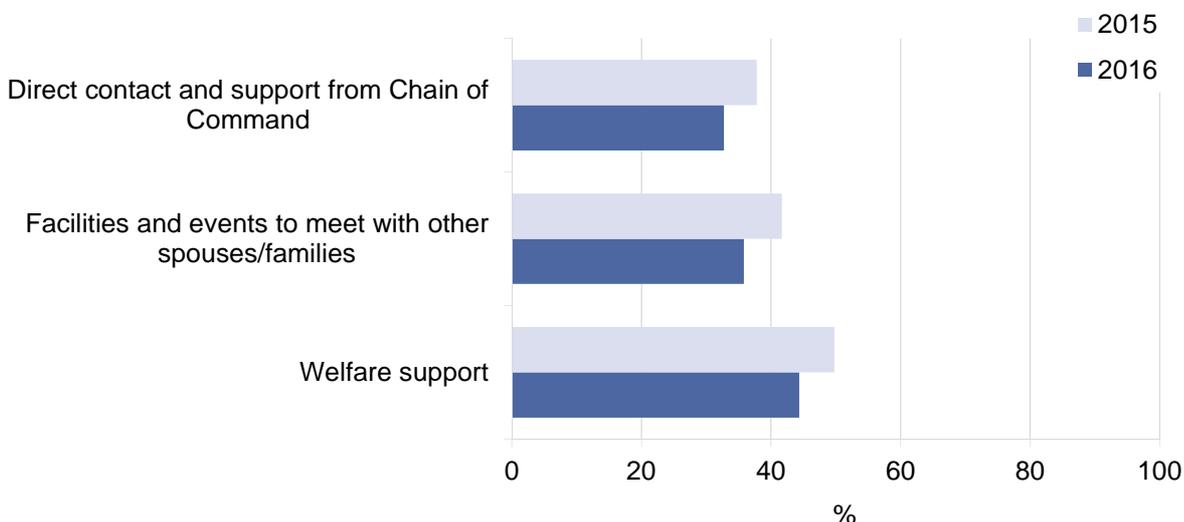
This chart also shows that the Army are most likely to make use of welfare support and the RAF least likely. This pattern is observed across most types of support for each time period. RN/RM families (96%) make the most use of lines of communication with their spouse during their deployment, followed by Army (92%) and then RAF families (82%).

Satisfaction with support

Levels of satisfaction with deployment support for families have fallen in most areas this year, particularly with support provided before deployment as shown in Chart 4.3.

There were also decreases in levels of satisfaction with facilities/events to meet other families and lines of communication with your spouse during deployment, and welfare support and direct contact/support from the Chain of Command after deployment.

Chart 4.3 - I was satisfied with the support I used before the deployment



SUBSET: Those whose serving spouse has been on a deployment within the past two years (44%)

However, it should be noted that for RN/RM and Army families, levels of satisfaction this year remain above or at least in line with those reported in 2012.

Levels of satisfaction differ by the type of support, with the highest levels reported for lines of communication with spouse during deployment (56% satisfied). Across all time periods, higher levels of satisfaction are reported for welfare support than the remaining types of support.

Levels of satisfaction differ by Service, with the exception of lines of communication with your spouse during deployment, RN/RM families report the lowest levels of satisfaction for all types of support across all time periods. Army families report the highest levels of satisfaction with facilities/event to meet other families across all time periods (ranging from 36% to 41%). Army families also have the highest levels of satisfaction with welfare support (51%) before the deployment and lines of communication with your spouse (60%) during the deployment.

Data Quality Note
Comparisons in levels of use and satisfaction cannot be made for RAF, and hence Tri-Service, prior to 2015. This is due to a change in response options.

Key Questions - Deployment

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2015	% Change from 2014
B4.2	I know where to go for Service - provided welfare support and information whilst my spouse is on deployment.		64	↔	↔
B4.6 ¹	I am satisfied with the welfare support I used during my spouse's deployment.		46	↔	N/A
B4.7 ¹	I am satisfied with the direct contact and support from my spouse's Chain of Command during their deployment.		36	↔	N/A
B4.8 ¹	I am satisfied with the facilities and events to meet with other spouses and families during my spouse's deployment.		34	-6	N/A
B4.9 ¹	I am satisfied with the lines of communication with my spouse during their deployment.		56	-5	N/A

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

¹SUBSET: Those whose serving spouse has been on a deployment within the past two years (44%)

Section 5 - Employment

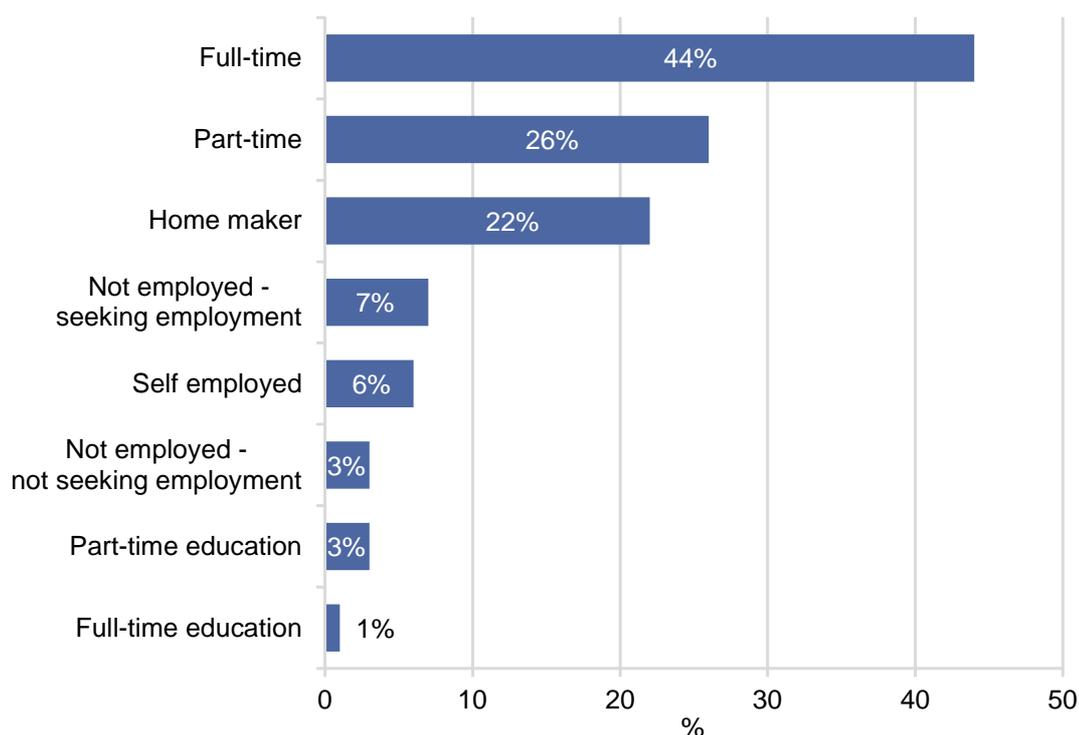
Section 5 provides information on employment status, job satisfaction and difficulties seeking employment. It also covers access to paid employment for families who have accompanied their spouse overseas. There are further questions about families' access to further education and courses.

Employment status

In 2016, three quarters of spouses are in employment¹, a three percentage point increase from 2015. Army spouses have seen the biggest increase in the proportion who are in employment, up from 67% in 2015 to 72% this year.

The proportion of all spouses in full-time employment has increased by three percentage points to 44%. This is largely due to an increase in RN/RM spousal employment, particularly amongst Officer spouses (increase from 38% to 43%). The RAF continues to have the highest proportion of spouses in full-time employment (50%) while the Army have the lowest (40%). The proportion of spouses in part-time employment (26%) or self employed (6%) has remained unchanged from 2015. Just over one fifth of spouses report being a homemaker/parent at home, a three percentage point decrease from last year. There has been a decrease in the proportion of Army Other Rank spouses who report being a homemaker/parent at home from 31% to 26% although, the Army still has the highest proportion of homemakers overall (25%).

Chart 5.1 - Current employment status



Data Quality Note

Comparisons with previous years are not possible due to changes in the number of missing responses prior to 2014.

'N/A' and missing responses have been excluded.

This was a 'tick all that apply' question so totals will not sum to 100%.

Armed Forces Covenant²

The MOD has launched a Spouse Employment Support Trial which aims to help spouses maintain or enhance their employment options through education and training courses.

One quarter of Service spouses are not in employment¹. 7% of spouses are not employed but seeking employment. This is unchanged from last year. Continuing the trend, Army spouses have the highest proportion seeking employment (9%) compared to RAF (5%) and RN/RM (4%) spouses. Similar to 2015, 3% of spouses are not employed and not seeking employment. 1% of all spouses report being in full-time education and 3% in part-time education. There has been an increase in the proportion of spouses living outside the UK who report that their immigration status means that they are unable to work, especially Officer spouses (11%).

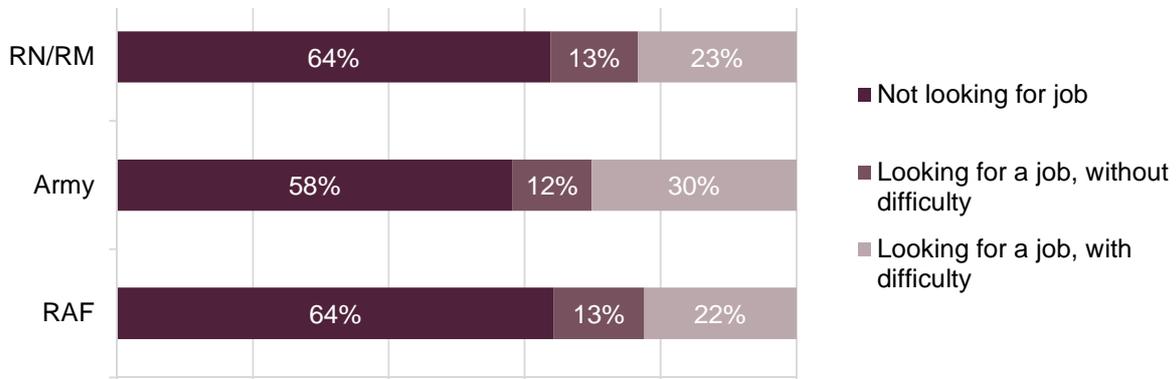
¹Employment refers to those in full-time or part-time employment, or those who are self employed.

² Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report-2015>

Seeking employment

Overall, 39% of spouses have been looking for employment in the last year. Similar to 2015, the proportion of spouses who have been looking for a job in the last 12 months is greater for Other Rank spouses (41%) than Officer spouses (34%).

Chart 5.5 - Difficulties finding employment



Of those 39% of spouses looking for employment, the majority experienced difficulties. For example, 30% of Army spouses experienced difficulties whilst looking for employment compared to the 12% who found a job without difficulty. As shown in Chart 5.5, Army spouses are more likely than RN/RM and RAF spouses to be looking for employment and to have experienced difficulties.

Difficulties seeking employment and accessing further education

The most common difficulty in finding suitable employment was due to spouses often being away, particularly in the RN/RM (56%). 37% of spouses report access to affordable and quality childcare as a difficulty. This is particularly evident for Other Rank spouses (40%) especially in the RN/RM. The proportion reporting difficulty due to having a spouse in the Armed Forces has fallen eight percentage points to 39% mainly due to a decrease amongst Army spouses. Officer spouses are more likely to report employment history (e.g. changing job regularly) as being a problem for finding suitable employment (44%) compared with Other Ranks (31%). Army spouses are more likely to report that a lack of relevant qualifications was the reason for having difficulty (18%), however, this is rated the lowest reason across all Services (15%).

Under one quarter (23%) of spouses report that being overseas with their partner causes difficulties in finding employment. RN/RM families are less likely to experience this difficulty (10%). This reflects the proportions of those who have accompanied their spouses overseas in the last 12 months.

The proportion of families having difficulty accessing further education as a result of Service life remains low (10%). RN/RM spouses are less likely to have difficulties (7%) compared with Army (11%) and RAF spouses (9%).

Key Questions - Seeking employment

Table Ref	Response	Overall %	% Change from 2015	% Change from 2014
B5.25	I have been looking for a job in the last 12 months.	39	↔	N/A
B5.26 ¹	I have experienced difficulty finding suitable employment.	69	↔	N/A

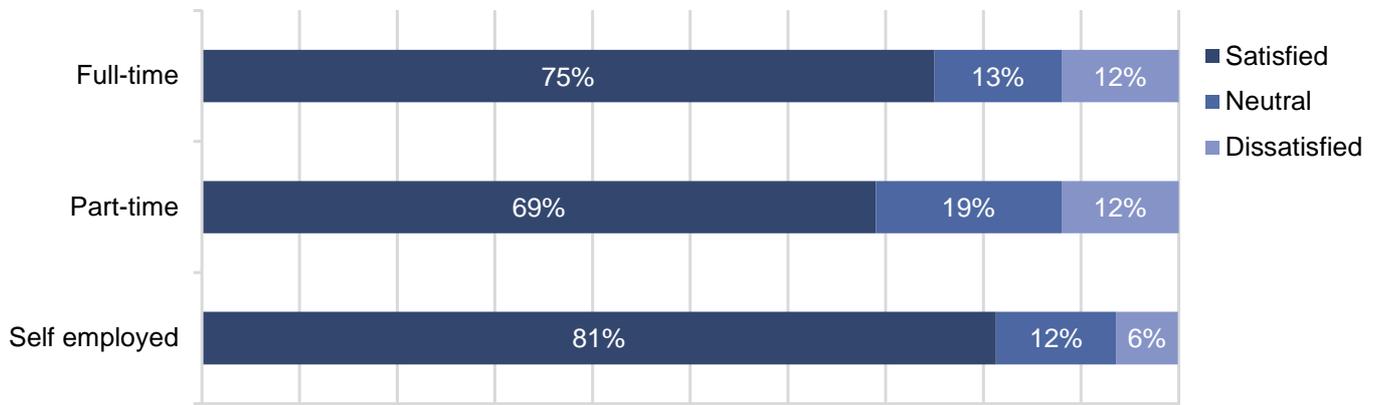
↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

¹SUBSET: Responses filtered for those who had been looking for a job (39%).

Job satisfaction

There has been little change in spouses' satisfaction with jobs from 2015. Chart 5.2 shows that three quarters of spouses in full-time employment are satisfied with their job overall.

Chart 5.2 - How satisfied are you with your job overall?



Around one quarter of spouses who are in part-time employment are not satisfied that their qualifications match their job. Officer spouses in both full-time and part-time employment are more satisfied that their qualifications match their job than Other Rank spouses.

Chart 5.3 - How satisfied are you that your qualifications match your job?



The proportion of spouses in full-time employment satisfied that their job matches their skills and experience has decreased this year; there is also some evidence³ of a decrease for those in part-time employment. Officer spouses in full-time and part-time employment are more satisfied with this than Other Rank spouses.

Chart 5.4 - How satisfied are you that your job matches your skills and experience?



³There is evidence at the 95% confidence level but not at the 99% level.

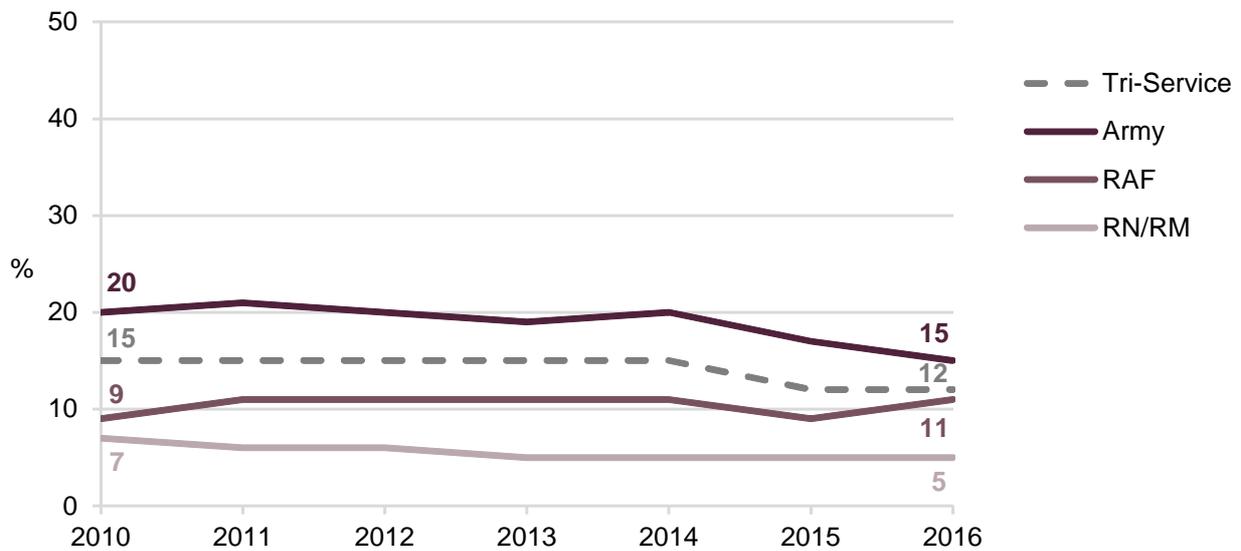
Accompanying overseas

The proportion of families accompanying their spouse overseas has remained at 12%. As in previous years, Army families are the most likely to accompany their spouse overseas (15%) and RN/RM families report the lowest rate of accompaniment (5%).

Of those families who accompanied their spouse overseas in the last 12 months, the proportion of Army families able to obtain paid employment without difficulty has decreased from 30% in 2015 to 23% this year. Despite this decrease Army families remain more likely to obtain paid employment without difficulty than RN/RM (13%) or RAF (15%) families.

Over two thirds of Service families were able to access Service-provided information before moving overseas (70%).

Chart 5.5 - Proportion accompanying their spouse overseas



Key Questions - Accompanying overseas

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2015	% Change from 2014
B5.3	I have accompanied my partner on overseas assignment in the last 12 months.		12	↔	-3
B5.4 ¹	I was able to obtain paid employment overseas without difficulty.		20	-6	N/A
B5.5 ¹	I was able to access Service-provided information without difficulty before moving overseas.		37	↔	N/A

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

¹SUBSET: Responses filtered for those who have accompanied their spouse/civil partner overseas (12%).

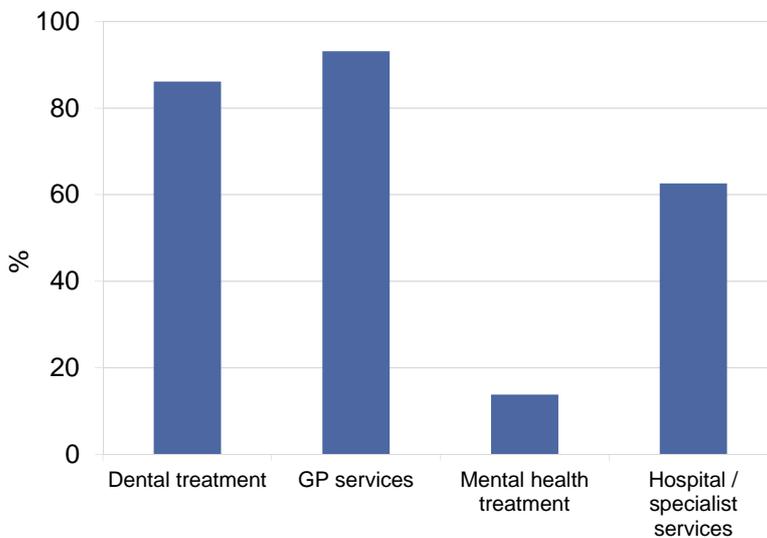
Section 6 - Healthcare

Section 6 covers spouses' experiences of access to healthcare services for Service families, including whether families are able to continue healthcare treatment following a house move.

Requirement for healthcare services

Over the past year, the majority of families required access to dental treatment (86%) and GP services (93%) whilst only 14% required access to mental health treatment. These proportions are largely unchanged from last year. There has been a reduction in requirement for hospital or specialist services, 63% in 2016, compared to the 66% reported last year. This change is driven by a reduction in requirement for Army families.

Chart 6.1 - In the last 12 months, my children or I have required access to the following healthcare services.



Data Quality Note

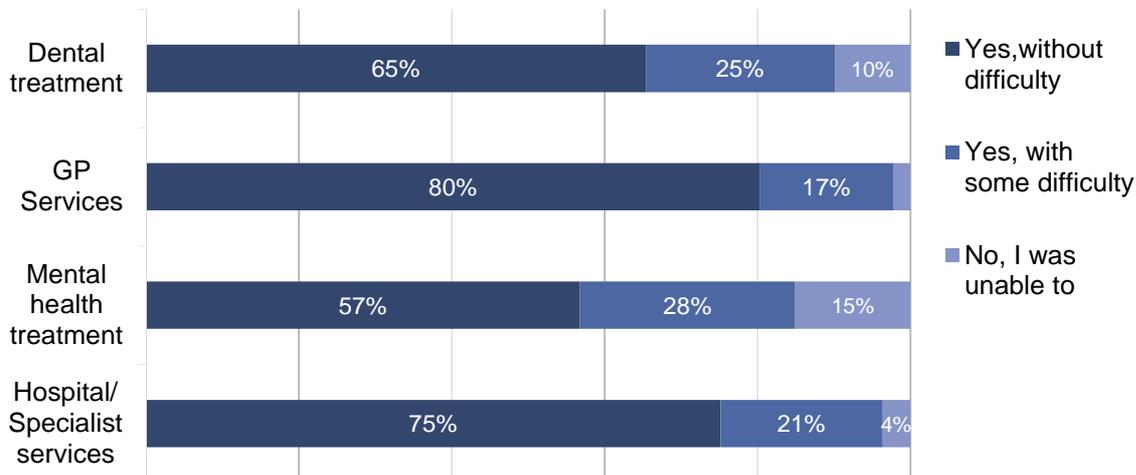
The survey aims to measure access to healthcare services for family of service personnel who are not in the Armed Forces. As such these questions were not asked of those without children where both spouses are serving in the Armed Forces.

SUBSET: Includes those who are not currently serving in the Armed Forces and/or have children. (95%).

There was a higher level of requirement for mental health treatment for families of Other Ranks (15%) compared to Officer families (9%).

Access to healthcare services

Chart 6.2 - In the last 12 months, have you/your children been able to access the following healthcare services?



SUBSET: Includes those families who required access to each healthcare service: dental treatment (86%), GP services (93%), mental health treatment (14%) and hospital/specialist services (63%).

Access to healthcare services

As shown in Chart 6.2, the majority of families who require GP or hospital/specialist services were able to access them. However, one in ten families were unable to access dental treatment, and a further quarter did so but with some difficulty. Although only a small proportion of families (14%) required mental health treatment, of those who did, 15% were unable to access treatment and 28% did so but with some difficulty.

In 2016 there has been a reduction in the proportion of families able to access hospital/specialist services without difficulties by four percentage points, which is largely driven by a reduction in access for Army families. This is mirrored by reductions in those able to access dental treatment and GP services without difficulties (both have fallen by three percentage points), which were also largely driven by changes for Army families. There is also some evidence² of a reduction in those able to access mental health treatment without difficulties (62% to 57%).

RN/RM families are more likely to be able to access hospital/specialist services and dental treatment without difficulties (79% and 71% respectively) compared to Army (74% and 66%) and RAF (75% and 60%) families.

Families living outside the UK are less likely to be able to access GP services without difficulties (74%) than families living within the UK (ranging from 81% to 84%).

Armed Forces Covenant goal¹:

Members of the Armed Forces community should enjoy the same standard of, and access to, healthcare as received by any other UK citizen in the area where they live.

Key Questions - Access to healthcare services

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2015	% Change from 2014
B6.9	I was able to access dental treatment without difficulties. <i>SUBSET: Families who required access to dental treatment (86%).</i>		65	-3	N/A
B6.10	I was able to access GP services without difficulties. <i>SUBSET: Families who required access to GP services (93%).</i>		80	-4	N/A
B6.11	I was able to access mental health treatment without difficulties. <i>SUBSET: Families who required access to mental health treatment (14%).</i>		57	↔	N/A
B6.12	I was able to access hospital or specialist services without difficulties. <i>SUBSET: Families who required access to hospital/specialist services (63%).</i>		75	-4	N/A

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

¹Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report-2015>

²There is evidence at the 95% confidence level but not at the 99% level.

Continuing healthcare treatment in a new location

In the last 12 months, 28% of Service families moved due to Service reasons and a further 9% moved for other reasons. This section looks at whether these families were undergoing any healthcare treatment at the time of their move and if so, whether they were able to continue this treatment in their new location.

Chart 6.3 - In the last 12 months, my children or I moved whilst undergoing course of the following healthcare treatment.

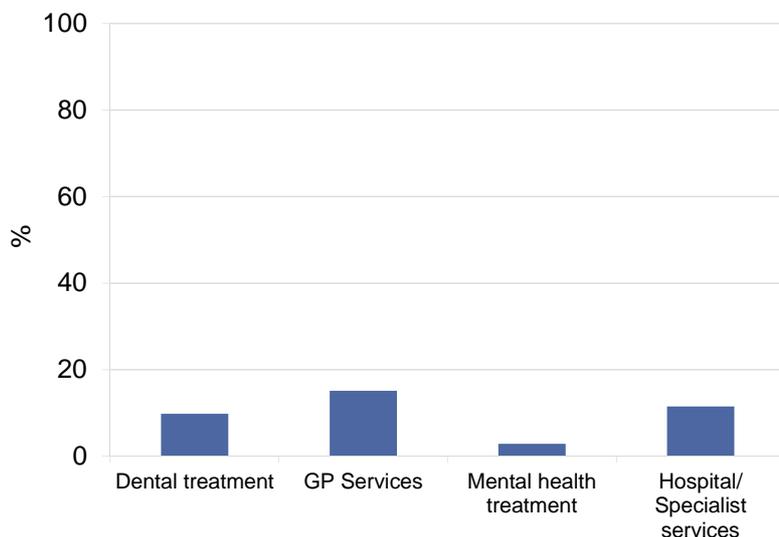
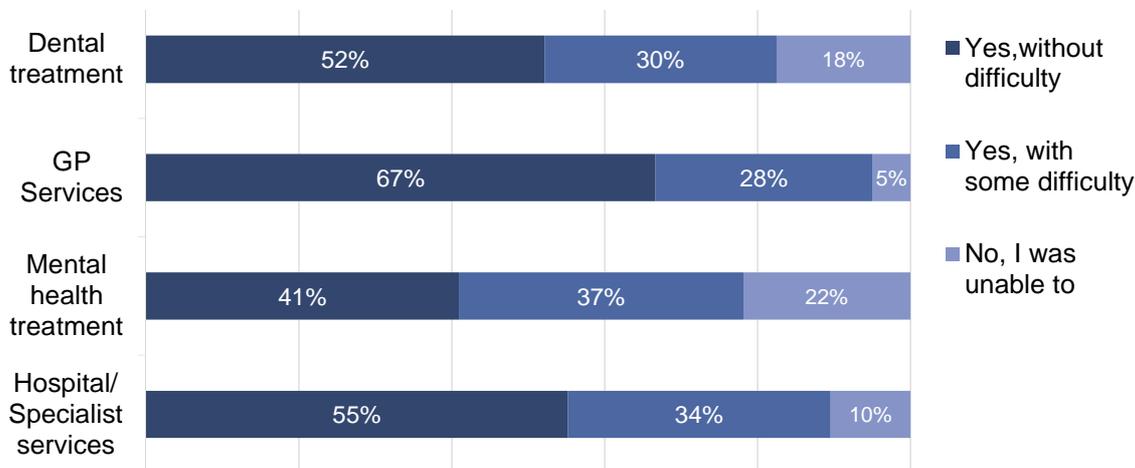


Chart 6.3 shows that only a minority of families moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatment, ranging from 15% of families who moved whilst undergoing treatment with their GP to just 3% of families who moved whilst undergoing mental health treatment.

Families of Army Other Ranks were most likely to move whilst undergoing healthcare treatment.

SUBSET: Includes those who are not currently serving in the Armed Forces and/or have children. (95%).

Chart 6.4 - Given you moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatment in the last 12 months, were you/your children able to continue this treatment in your new location?



SUBSET: Includes families who moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatment: Dental treatment (10%), GP treatment (15%), Mental health treatment (3%) and Hospital/specialist treatment (11%).

Although a small minority of families move whilst undergoing treatment (Chart 6.3) those who do are quite likely to experience some problems with continuing this treatment.

For example, of those families (3%) who moved whilst undergoing mental health treatment, only two fifths (41%) were able to continue without difficulty, whilst a similar proportion (37%) experienced some difficulties and a further fifth (22%) were unable to continue the treatment.

The impact of mobility on families' ability to access healthcare service is explored further in Section 8 - Impact of mobility, where access for those who moved for Service reasons is compared to access for those who did not move.

Continuing healthcare treatment in a new location (continued)

Over the last 12 months, 8% of Service spouses moved while they or their children were on a waiting list for an operation or consultants appointment.

Of these 32% felt that moving had increased their waiting time, compared to 41% who felt it had not. The remainder were either “don’t know” or “not applicable” responses. These results are broadly similar to those observed last year.

Armed Forces Covenant goal³:

Family members should retain their relative position on any NHS waiting list, if moved around the UK due to the Service person being posted.

Key Questions - Continuing healthcare treatment in a new location

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2015	% Change from 2014								
B6.21	I was able to continue dental treatment in new location without difficulty. <i>SUBSET: Families who moved while undergoing dental treatment (10%).</i>	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Service</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>RN/RM</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>Army</td><td>52</td></tr> <tr><td>RAF</td><td>45</td></tr> </table>	Service	Percentage	RN/RM	52	Army	52	RAF	45	52	↔	N/A
Service	Percentage												
RN/RM	52												
Army	52												
RAF	45												
B6.22	I was able to continue GP treatment in new location without difficulty. <i>SUBSET: Families who moved while undergoing GP treatment (15%).</i>	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Service</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>RN/RM</td><td>67</td></tr> <tr><td>Army</td><td>67</td></tr> <tr><td>RAF</td><td>58</td></tr> </table>	Service	Percentage	RN/RM	67	Army	67	RAF	58	67	↔	N/A
Service	Percentage												
RN/RM	67												
Army	67												
RAF	58												
B6.23	I was able to continue mental health treatment in new location without difficulty. <i>SUBSET: Families who moved while undergoing mental health treatment (3%).</i>	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Service</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>RN/RM</td><td>41</td></tr> <tr><td>Army</td><td>41</td></tr> <tr><td>RAF</td><td>50</td></tr> </table>	Service	Percentage	RN/RM	41	Army	41	RAF	50	41	↔	N/A
Service	Percentage												
RN/RM	41												
Army	41												
RAF	50												
B6.24	I was able to continue hospital/specialist treatment in new location without difficulty. <i>SUBSET: Families who moved while undergoing hospital/specialist treatment (11%).</i>	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Service</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>RN/RM</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>Army</td><td>55</td></tr> <tr><td>RAF</td><td>52</td></tr> </table>	Service	Percentage	RN/RM	55	Army	55	RAF	52	55	↔	N/A
Service	Percentage												
RN/RM	55												
Army	55												
RAF	52												
B6.26	Waiting time for an operation/consultant appointment was not increased due to my move. <i>SUBSET: Families who moved whilst on a waiting list for an operation/consultant appointment (8%).</i>	<table border="1"> <tr><th>Service</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> <tr><td>RN/RM</td><td>41</td></tr> <tr><td>Army</td><td>41</td></tr> <tr><td>RAF</td><td>39</td></tr> </table>	Service	Percentage	RN/RM	41	Army	41	RAF	39	41	↔	N/A
Service	Percentage												
RN/RM	41												
Army	41												
RAF	39												

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

³Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report-2015>

Section 7 - Housing

Section 7 covers the types of accommodation spouses live in during the working week, and how this compares to what they would like to live in. For those in Service Family Accommodation, it covers satisfaction with different aspects of SFA. This section also looks at home ownership, and the reasons for not owning a home.

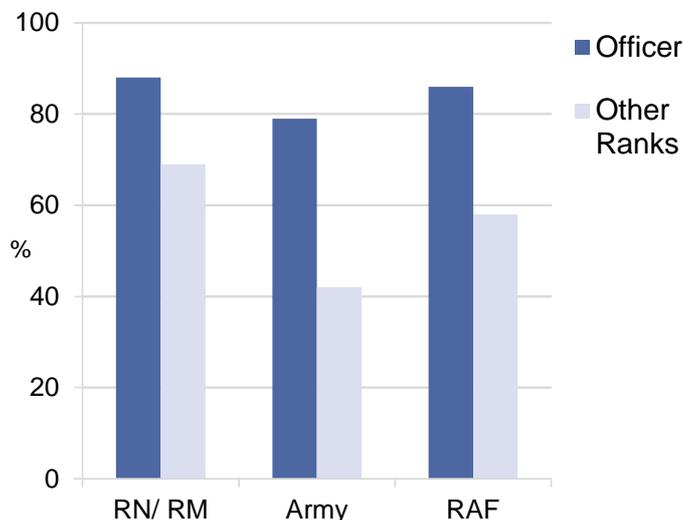
Home ownership

Unchanged from 2015, 58% of Service families own their own home. AFCAS 2016¹ found that 56% of Regular personnel who were married own their own home. This compares to 24% of single Serving personnel.

The highest rate of home ownership is in RN/RM families, where three quarters of families own their own homes, followed by RAF families, at just under two thirds, and finally Army families, at half.

Officer families have a much higher rate of home ownership than Other Rank families, at 83% compared to 50%.

Chart 7.1 - I own my own home



AFCAS 2016 Comparison¹

80% of married Officer and 48% of married Other Rank Trained Regulars own their own home.

RN/RM spouses are most likely to live in the home that they own (57%). Officer families across all Services are more likely to own their own home but not live in it (39%) than Other Rank families (19%). Only 3% of families living outside the UK own their own home and live in it.

Non-home owners

42% of Service families do not own their own home, however, half of these (21%) are currently saving to buy a home in the future. More Other Rank families (24%) than Officer families (9%) who do not own their own home are currently saving to buy a home in the future.

The most common reason for Service families not owning their own home remains 'I/we can't afford to buy a suitable home at the moment'. The proportion of spouses who say that they want to be able to move with their partner when he/she is posted has fallen six percentage points to 32%. Officer families (44%) and RAF families (39%) are most likely to state this as the reason for not owning their own home.

Table 7.2 - Top five reasons for not owning a home

	% of non-home owners
I/we can't afford to buy a suitable home at the moment	58
Living in Service accommodation is better suited to my family's needs at present	37
I/we want to be able to move with my spouse/civil partner when he/she is posted	32
I/we don't want to buy a home where we are currently located	29
I/we wouldn't be able to live in the home	15

SUBSET: Responses filtered for those who do not own their own home (42%).

¹ Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-2016>

Current accommodation

The majority (61%) of families live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) or Substitute SFA (SSFA) during the working week, this remains unchanged from 2015. One third of families (33%) live in a privately owned home and 2% in a privately rented home. 2% live in Single Living Accommodation (SLA).

Army families are the most likely to live in SFA during the working week (69%) followed by RAF (56%) and RN/RM (35%). Across all Services, Other Rank spouses are more likely to live in SFA (62%) than Officer spouses (47%) as Officer spouses are more likely to live in their own home (43%).

The majority of Service families would prefer to live in a privately owned home during the working week (61%), a preference which has been increasing since 2013. Just over one third (35%) of families would prefer to live in SFA and this is highest for Army families (46%). Overall, two thirds of Service families (66%) are living in their preferred type of accommodation. 29% are not in a privately owned home but would prefer to be. A lower proportion of RAF families are living in their preferred accommodation compared to the other two Services, and more RAF families would prefer to live in their own home.

AFCAS 2016 Comparison²

33% of Service personnel live in SFA or SSFA, 43% live in SLA or SSLA and 17% live in a privately-owned home.

Chart 7.3 - Proportion of Service Families by accommodation type and preference



Satisfaction with SFA/SSFA

Satisfaction with all seven aspects of SFA/SSFA included in the survey has fallen in the past year. Just over half (53%) of all Service families are satisfied with the overall standard of SFA/SSFA, a decrease from 63%. RN/RM families are the least satisfied (44%) with the overall standard of SFA/SSFA.

Across all Services satisfaction with the value for money of SFA/SSFA has decreased, however, around two thirds of families are still satisfied with this.

Satisfaction with the response to requests for maintenance/repair and the quality of the maintenance/repair work has fallen across all Services. RN/RM families are the most dissatisfied with responses to requests for maintenance/repair (25%), although, this Service has the lowest proportion of families living in SFA/SSFA (38%). In general, Officer spouses (57%) are more dissatisfied than Other Rank spouses (43%) with the quality of maintenance/repair work. This, however, is not the case for families living outside the UK. 61% of Officer families living outside the UK are satisfied with the response to requests for maintenance/repair compared to 49% of Other Rank families living outside the UK.

AFCAS 2016 Comparison²

Trained Regulars also reported a decrease in satisfaction with Service Family Accommodation. 50% of all Trained Regulars are satisfied with the overall standard of SFA.

² Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-2016>

Less than half of all families (42%) are satisfied with how fairly Service accommodation is allocated. This is down from 48% in 2015. Army families are the most satisfied with how fairly Service accommodation is allocated (44%) compared to RAF and RN/RM families (both 38%).

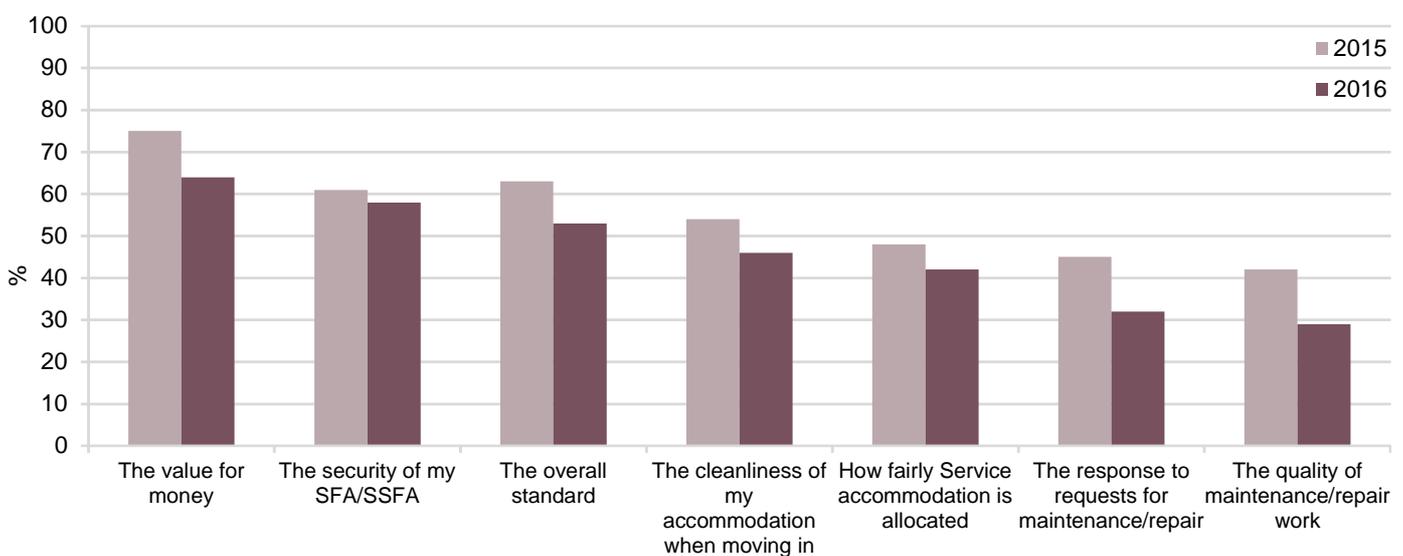
Over half of Service families (58%) are satisfied with the security of their SFA/SSFA, a decrease from 61% in 2015. This is driven by a decrease in satisfaction reported by RAF families (62% to 56%).

Less than half of all Service families (46%) are satisfied with the cleanliness of their accommodation when moving in. In general, Army families were less satisfied (44%) with the cleanliness of their accommodation when moving in than RN/RM families (51%) and RAF families (49%).

Armed Forces Covenant Commitment³

The MOD will spend some £1.85 billion on accommodation by 2020-21 in order to deliver 18,500 SLA bed spaces and 3,000 homes.

Chart 7.4 - I am satisfied with each of the following in the SFA or SSFA I live in



Service personnel were asked for their satisfaction with different aspects of their Service accommodation in AFCAS 2016. The decline in satisfaction with aspects of SFA/SSFA is mirrored in the satisfaction of Service personnel who live in Service Accommodation, although the scale of decline is larger for Service families. These decreases in satisfaction are likely to reflect, in part, underperformance by the National Housing Prime contractor and changes to the SFA charging method in April 2016.

³Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report-2015>

Key Questions - Accommodation

Table
Ref Response

Overall %	% Change from 2015	% Change from 2014
-----------	--------------------	--------------------

B7.1	I own my own home.		58	↔	↔
B7.2	I am currently saving up to buy a home in the future.		21	↔	N/A
B7.12	I live in Service Family Accommodation during the working week. <i>Excludes those living in Substitute SFA.</i>		59	↔	↔
B7.12	I live in privately owned home during the working week.		33	↔	↔
B7.14	I am living in my preferred type of accommodation.		66	↔	↔

↔ indicates no significant change has been found.

Section 8 - Impact of Mobility

Section 8 looks at the impact of moving location on the spouses and families of Service personnel. It looks again at some of the questions from the previous seven sections, and compares the responses of those who moved for Service reasons with those who have not moved over the last 12 months.

Throughout this section the term “moved” refers to those who have moved for Service reasons.

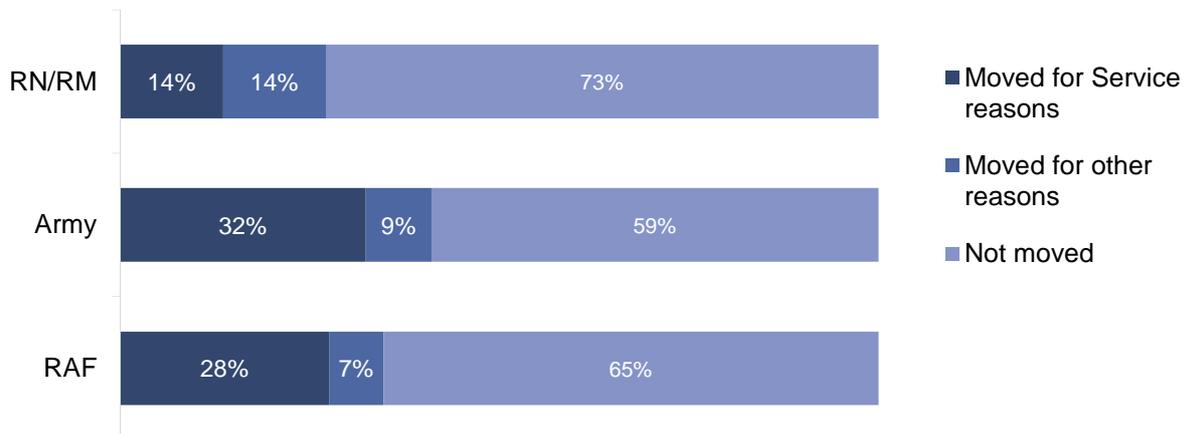
Introduction

Moving home can be the cause of disruption for many aspects of family life; 28% of Service families moved for Service reasons over the past year. This figure has remained largely unchanged over the past three years.

Army families are most likely to move for Service reasons (33%), whilst RN/RM families are least likely (14%).

This section compares the 28% of families who moved with the 63% of families who did not move.

Chart 8.1 - Have you moved in the last 12 months?



About you - separation

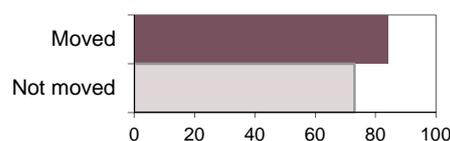
Families who have moved are more likely to live with their spouse (84%) than families who have not moved (73%). This is to be expected as those who move for Service reasons are likely to be accompanying their Serving spouse.

There is little difference between time the Serving person spent away from home for those families who moved and those who did not. This may explain why there is no difference in attitudes towards separation for families who moved and those who did not.

Key Questions - About you: separation

Table
Ref Response

B8.1	I live with my spouse during the working week.
------	--



RN/RM	Army	RAF
↑	↑	↔

↑ indicates that the Moved rate is higher than the Not moved rate.

↔ indicates that the Moved rate and the Not moved rate are not significantly different.

Armed Forces Covenant

Families who have moved in the last 12 months for Service reasons are less likely to have neutral feelings about the key Covenant issues of housing, education and healthcare compared to those who have not moved. This is consistent with the 2015 results. A higher proportion of families who moved feel disadvantaged about their education (34%) and healthcare (26%) compared to those who did not move (24% and 18% respectively). This is true for all Services and for both Officer and Other Rank families.

Positive and negative aspects of Service life

Families who have moved are more likely to feel strongly (either positively or negatively) about several aspects of Service life compared to those who have not moved. More spouses who have moved feel negative about the effect on their career than any other aspect of Service life (62%). In comparison, just over half (51%) of those who did not move feel negative about the impact of Service life on their career. Families who have moved also feel more negative about the number of house moves (55%) compared to those who did not move (32%). This difference is present across all three Services and for both Officer and Other Rank families.

Families who moved feel more negative about family income/allowances (37%) compared to those who did not move (30%). Furthermore, families who moved feel more negative about family income/allowances than in 2015 (32%).

Spouses who have moved are more likely to feel positive about social aspects of Service life, for example knowing other military families (50%) and community support for their family (33%) than those who did not move (42% and 24% respectively). Those who moved are also more positive about Service provided facilities (46%) and relationship with their spouse (22%) than those who did not move (34% and 18% respectively).

Key Questions - Armed Forces Covenant

Table Ref	Response		RN/RM	Army	RAF
B8.8	I feel disadvantaged about education.		↑	↑	↔
B8.12	I feel positive about Service provided facilities.		↑	↑	↑
B8.15	I feel negative about family income/allowances		↑	↔	↔
B8.19	I feel negative about the prospects of buying own home.		↑	↑	↑
B8.20	I feel positive about opportunities for travel.		↑	↑	↑

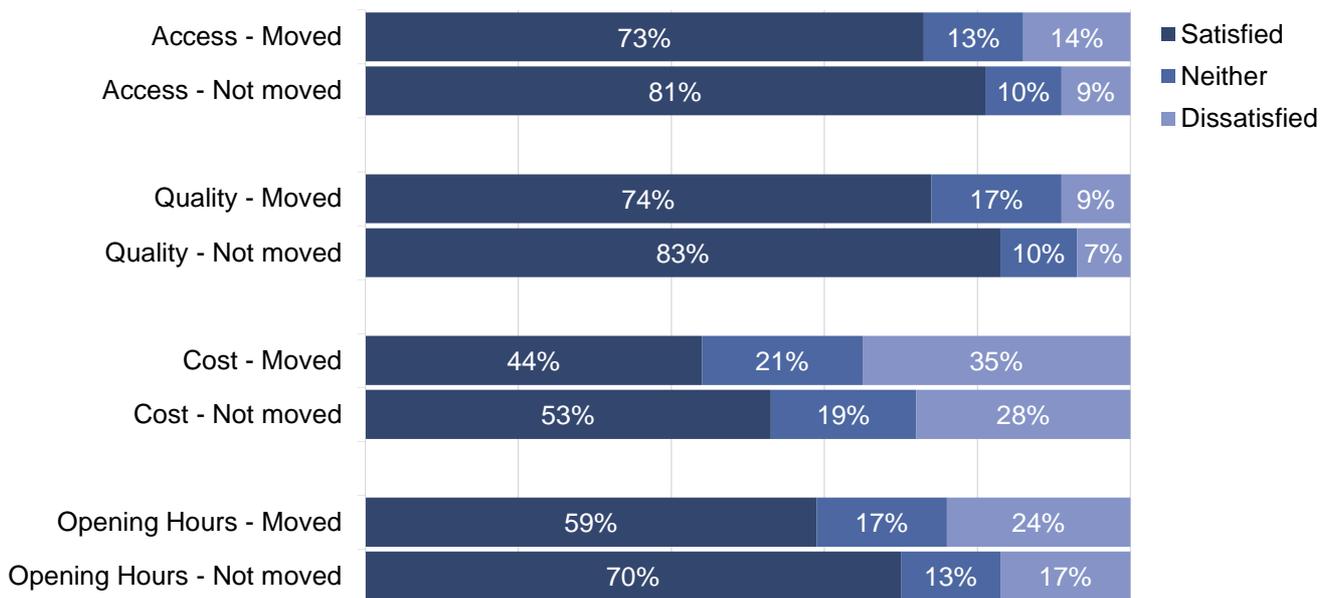
↑ indicates that the Moved rate is higher than the Not moved rate.
↔ indicates that the Moved rate and the Not moved rate are not significantly different.

Childcare & children’s education

There was no significant difference in the proportion of families who have children between those who moved and those who did not move.

The demand for early years (0-4 years) childcare is highest amongst families who moved (39%; did not move: 33%) particularly for RN/RM (46%; did not move: 35%) and RAF families (45%; did not move: 34%). Whilst the majority of families who moved could access early years childcare (85%), those who did not move are more likely to access it (91%). However, this is largely driven by Officer families who did not move of whom nearly all were able to access childcare (96%). Families who moved experienced lower levels of satisfaction of early years childcare than those who did not move, as shown in Chart 8.2.

Chart 8.2 - How satisfied are you with the following aspects of your local early years childcare facilities?



SUBSET: Includes those with children who needed childcare; moved (8%), not moved (16%).

Schools and before or after school care

Across the three Services, a lower proportion of families who moved have school age children (45%) compared to those who did not move (51%). Mobility as a result of Service life has not had a substantial impact on the proportion of families with school age children who needed before or after school care, but families who moved are less likely to be satisfied with the availability (57%) than those who did not move (67%).

Mobility also has an impact on the type of school children attend. Families with school age children who moved are less likely to attend state schools (68%) and almost twice as likely to have children at independent boarding schools (15%) than those who did not move (79% and 8% respectively). These differences are seen across all Services. Furthermore, a higher proportion of families who moved have children at Service schools (12%) than those who did not move (7%), with RN/RM families who moved, least likely to have children at Service schools (2%) compared to Army (14%) and RAF (11%) families .

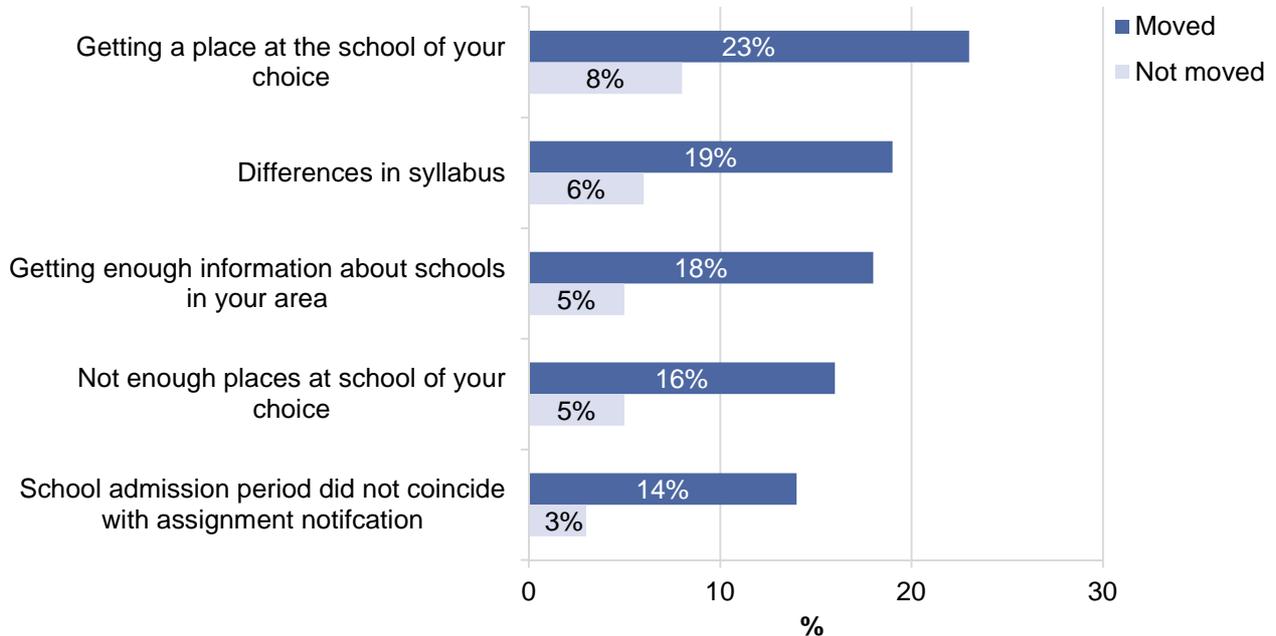
Families who moved are more likely to be in receipt of Continuity of Education Allowance which, as discussed in Section 3, may be reflected in the higher proportion of children who moved attending independent boarding schools than those who did not.

Difficulties experienced with children’s schooling

Moving for Service reasons has a considerable impact on families in relation to their children’s education. Families who moved are more likely to experience some difficulties with their children’s schooling (54%) than those who did not move (29%). The most common difficulty experienced is getting a place at the school of their choice (23%), which is nearly three times the proportion of families who did not move who experienced the same issue (8%).

The main reason for these increased difficulties is the increase in likelihood of moving school. In the last 12 months the majority (72%) of families with school age children who moved, changed schools for Service reasons. Similarly, any family with children who changed schools for Service reasons (who may or may not have moved) are also more likely to experience some difficulties (62%) than those who did not change schools (26%). Chart 8.3 shows that the most common difficulty experienced with children’s schooling for those who moved is getting a place at the school of their choice (23%), a problem experienced by just 8% of those who did not move. A further four difficulties which are also more likely to be experienced by those who moved are shown in Chart 8.3.

Chart 8.3 - Top 5 most common difficulties experienced with children’s schooling



SUBSET: Response based on those with school age children; moved (12%), not moved (32%).

Key Questions - Children’s education

Table Ref	Response		RN/RM	Army	RAF
B8.25 ¹	I was able to access early years (0-4 years) childcare.		↔	↔	↔
B8.41 ²	I experienced difficulties with my children’s schooling.		↑	↑	↑

↑ indicates that the Moved rate is higher than the Not moved rate.
↔ indicates that the Moved rate and the Not moved rate are not significantly different.

¹SUBSET: Responses based on those with children who required early years childcare; moved (8%), not moved (16%).

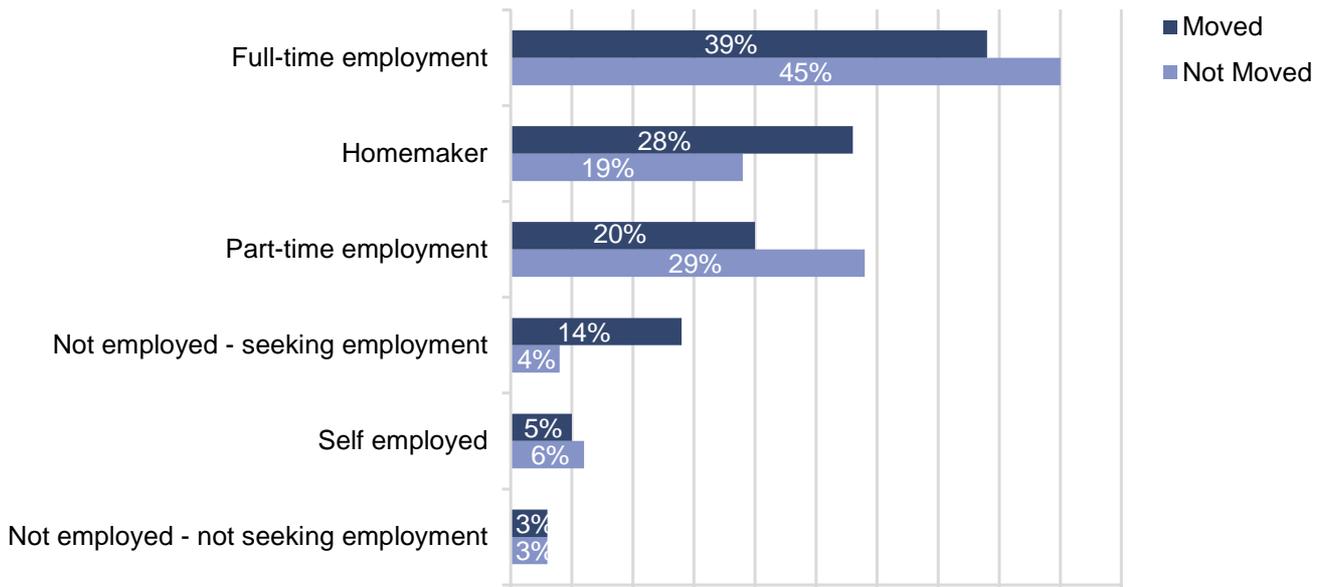
²SUBSET: Responses based on those with school age children; moved (12%), not moved (32%).

Employment

Over half of Service spouses (54%) who have moved have been looking for a job in the last 12 months, compared to 32% of spouses who have not moved. Those who have moved in the last 12 months are less likely to be in full-time or part-time employment than those who have not moved, but are more likely to be a homemaker or seeking employment (see Chart 8.4).

In general, those who have moved do not experience more difficulty finding suitable employment than those who have not moved. Spouses who have moved in the last 12 months are twice as likely to report that being overseas with their partner as the main reason for experiencing difficulty finding suitable employment (34%; did not move: 17%).

Chart 8.4 - Proportion of spouses in different employment types



Spouses in full-time employment are less likely to be satisfied that their qualifications match their job if they have moved (65%; did not move: 74%) and less satisfied that their job matches their skills and experience (66%; did not move: 74%).

Overall, spouses who have moved are more likely to experience difficulty with accessing further education (12%; did not move: 8%), and with continuing a course they had already started (10%; did not move: 7%).

Key Questions - Employment

Table Ref	Response		RN/RM	Army	RAF
B8.82	I have been looking for a job in the last 12 months.		↑	↑	↑
B8.83¹	I have experienced difficulty finding suitable employment.		↔	↔	↔

↑ indicates that the Moved rate is higher than the Not moved rate.

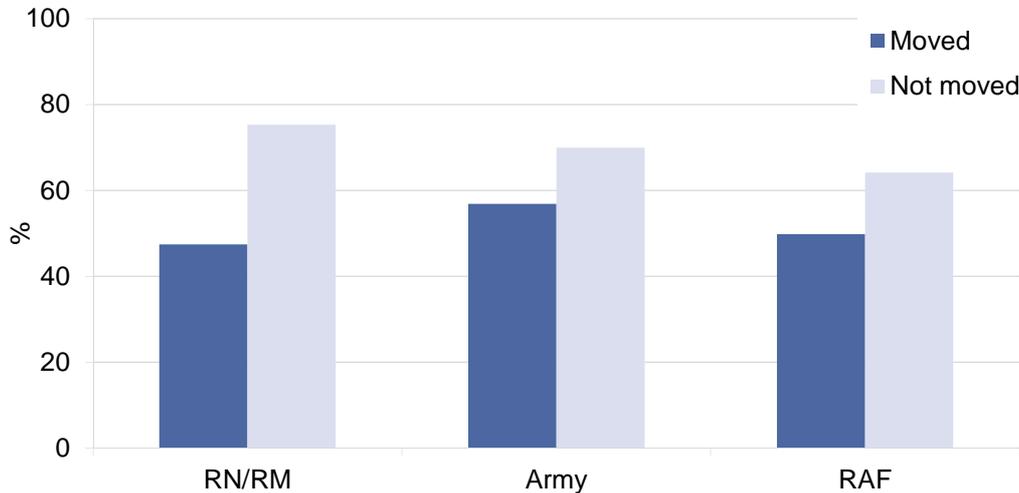
↔ indicates that the Moved rate and the Not moved rate are not significantly different.

¹SUBSET: Responses based on those who have been looking for a job; moved (16%), not moved (22%).

Healthcare

There were some small (but statistically significant) differences between requirement for healthcare services. Those who moved are less likely to require dental treatment (84%) or hospital/specialist services (59%) than those who did not move (87% and 64% respectively). However, those who moved were more likely to require GP services (95%) than those who did not move (93%).

Chart 8.5 - In the last 12 months, I/my children were able to access dental treatment without difficulties.



Families who moved are less likely to be able to access dental treatment without difficulties than those who did move.

This is case for all Services, although the difference is especially large for RN/RM families.

SUBSET: Those families who required dental treatment; moved (20%), not moved (50%).

Overall, those who moved were also less likely to be able to access GP services (76%) and hospital/specialist services (68%) without difficulties than those families who did not move (82% and 77% respectively).

However, as shown in the key questions below, there are some single Service exceptions.

Key Questions - Healthcare

Table Ref	Response		RN/RM	Army	RAF
B8.99	I was able to access dental treatment without difficulty.		↓	↓	↓
SUBSET: Required dental treatment; moved (20%), not moved(50%).					
B8.100	I was able to access GP services without difficulty.		↓	↔	↓
SUBSET: Required dental treatment; moved (23%), not moved(53%).					
B8.102	I was able to access hospital/specialist services without difficulty.		↓	↓	↔
SUBSET: (Required dental treatment; moved (14%), not moved(36%).					

↓ indicates that the Moved rate is lower than the Not moved rate.

↔ indicates that the Moved rate and the Not moved rate are not significantly different.

Housing

Spouses who have moved are less likely to own their own home than spouses who have not moved, at 47% compared to 63%. This is the case for all three Services, and for both Officer and Other Rank families.

Spouses who have moved are more likely to live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) during the working week than spouses who have not moved, at 81% compared to 52%. Spouses who have moved are less likely to live in a privately owned home, at 10% compared to 41% of spouses who have not moved. These differences between the moved and not moved rates hold for all three Services, and for both Officer and Other Rank families.

Chart 8.6 - Proportion of Service Families by accommodation type and preference



The largest difference in satisfaction with different aspects of living in SFA or SSFA is seen in how fairly spouses think Service accommodation is allocated. In general, those who have not moved are more dissatisfied with this.

Key Questions - Housing

Table Ref	Response		RN/RM	Army	RAF
B8.103	I own my own home.		↓	↓	↓
B8.105	I live in Service Family Accommodation during the working week.		↑	↑	↑
B8.105	I live in a privately owned home during the working week.		↓	↓	↓
B8.107	I am currently living in my preferred type of accommodation.		↓	↓	↓

↑ indicates that the Moved rate is higher than the Not moved rate.
 ↓ indicates that the Moved rate is lower than the Not moved rate.

Methodology

1. Target Population

The target population for FAMCAS 2016 was the spouses/civil partners of all trained UK Regular Armed Forces personnel including Gurkhas but excluding Special Forces and those deployed or attending training courses at the time the survey sample was drawn from the Joint Personnel Administration system.

2. The survey

FAMCAS is distributed in electronic and paper format. The RN/RM has run an online survey for several years but the Army and RAF introduced an online survey this year.

Both the paper questionnaires and e-mail invites to the online questionnaire are sent to Service personnel who are asked to pass them onto their spouse/civil partner. Data collection ran from February 2016 to May 2016, a relatively long period which allows time for Service personnel to pass on the survey to their spouse/civil partner as some may be living separately due to postings/assignments.

The survey is completely anonymous. Individual level data are only available to a small group of civilian researchers working on the analysis and report production but this does not contain any identifier which can be linked back to the Service person or their spouse/civil partner.

The introduction of online questionnaires for Army & RAF spouses had some impact on the data. We suspect it led to a small increase in the number of Service personnel completing the survey on behalf of their spouse and increased item non-response for later questions due to a rise in partially completed questionnaires. More detail on this issue is provided in the Background Quality Report. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>

3. The sample and respondents

The total FAMCAS 2016 sample consisted of 28,940 personnel. FAMCAS questionnaires were issued to Service personnel selected under a (disproportionate) stratified simple random sampling process. Samples were designed to provide sufficient responses to yield estimates with a reasonable margin of error under cost constraints. Due to low expected response rates most strata are a complete census. The table below shows the strata we are able to select a sample from and the level of precision¹ we aim for:

Table A1: Precision aimed for by strata

Strata	Precision
RN Officer England	4%
RN OR6-9 England	4%
Army Officer England	5%
Army OR6-9 England	5%
Army OR1-4 England	5%
RAF Officer England	5%
RAF OR6-9 England	5%
RAF OR1-4 England	5%

¹ Precision is based on half of a 95% confidence interval width, often referred to as the margin of error.

Based on 2015 response rates this sample design was expected to yield precisions of around 2.5% for each Service and 4% to 5% for each Rank group by Service. However, even though we conduct a census for Royal Marines we expect margins of error for each rank group to be closer to 7%. Margins of error for each question can be found in reference tables published alongside this report here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>

8,086 responses were used in the FAMCAS 2016 analysis, giving an overall response rate of 28%. The table below contains detailed information on the number of questionnaires issued and received along with corresponding response rates.

Table A2: Response rates by Service and rank group

		Sample size	Surveys returned	2016 response rate	2015 response rate	2014 response rate
Royal Navy	Officers	2 151	809	38%	35%	37%
	Ratings	5 354	1 186	22%	21%	20%
	Total	7 505	1 995	27%	25%	25%
Royal Marines	Officers	347	101	29%	29%	34%
	Marines	1 643	357	22%	19%	26%
	Total	1 990	458	23%	20%	28%
Army	Officers	2 265	1 022	45%	45%	42%
	Soldiers	10 299	2 270	22%	20%	22%
	Total	12 564	3 292	26%	24%	26%
Royal Air Force	Officers	1 680	681	41%	34%	31%
	Airmen	5 201	1 660	32%	23%	21%
	Total	6 881	2 341	34%	26%	23%
All Services	Officers	6 443	2 613	41%	38%	37%
	Ranks	22 497	5 473	24%	21%	21%
	Total	28 940	8 086	28%	25%	25%

Note that percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole % for ease of interpretation.

4. Weighting methodology and non-response

Due to the sample design and the differences in prevalence of non-response between the Service, rank and location strata, the distribution of characteristics amongst the FAMCAS respondents did not reflect the distribution in the whole Armed Forces spouse/civil partner population. Response rates tend to vary by strata, therefore responses are weighted by rank in order to correct for the bias caused by over or under-representation.

The weights were calculated simply by:

$$\frac{\text{Population size within weighting class (p)}}{\text{Number of responses within weighting class (r)}}$$

Weighting in this way assumes missing data are missing at random (MAR) only within weighting classes. This means we assume that within a single weighting class the views of non-respondents do not differ (on average) to the views of respondents.

The results for each respondent within each weighting class are multiplied by the weight for that class. This effectively scales up response to the population size. Classes with larger weights are less represented in the data and so need to be scaled up more.

Table A3: Weightings used for FAMCAS 2016 analysis

Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied
RN_OF5+_Eng	4.16	Army_OF5+_Eng	10.22	RAF_OF5+_Eng	9.58
RN_OF1+_Scot	3.25	Army_OF1+_NI	2.09	RAF_OF1+_NI/Wales	3.68
RN_OF1+_NI/Wales	3.60	Army_OF1+_Scot	2.73	RAF_OF1+_Scot	4.19
RN_OF1+_NonUK	3.66	Army_OF1+_Cyprus	1.87	RAF_OF1+_Cyprus	2.27
RN_OF1-4_Eng	4.63	Army_OF1+_Germany	2.67	RAF_OF1+_NonUK	3.72
RN_OR6-9_Eng	5.02	Army_OF5+_NonUK	1.87	RAF_OF1-4_Eng	8.51
RN_OR1-9_NI/Wales	3.90	Army_OF1-4_Eng	13.74	RAF_OR6-9_Eng	9.17
RN_OR6-9_Scot	4.75	Army_OF1-4_Wales	3.39	RAF_OR1+_NI	4.56
RN_OR6-9_NonUK	4.89	Army_OF1-4_NonUK	2.64	RAF_OR6-9_Scot	4.32
RN_OR3-4_Eng	6.96	Army_OR6-9_Eng	18.52	RAF_OR6-9_Wales	5.32
RN_OR1-4_Scot	10.85	Army_OR6-9_NI	4.11	RAF_OR6-9_Cyprus	2.18
RN_OR1-4_NonUK	8.64	Army_OR6-9_Scot	4.71	RAF_OR6-9_NonUK	3.43
RN_OR1-2_Eng	11.03	Army_OR6-9_Wales	5.24	RAF_OR3-4_Eng	6.93
RM_OF1+_Eng	4.53	Army_OR6-9_Cyprus	3.66	RAF_OR3-4_Scot	5.11
RM_OF1+_Scot/Wales/NonUK	6.22	Army_OR6-9_Germany	2.73	RAF_OR1-4_Wales	7.53
RM_OR6-9_Eng	4.27	Army_OR6-9_NonUK	3.45	RAF_OR3-4_Cyprus	2.63
RM_OR6-9_Scot/Wales/NonUK	4.68	Army_OR3-4_Eng	20.61	RAF_OR1-4_NonUK	6.50
RM_OR3-4_Eng	7.83	Army_OR1-4_NI	6.66	RAF_OR1-2_Eng	11.13
RM_OR1-4_Scot/Wales/NonUK	10.25	Army_OR3-4_Scot	9.81	RAF_OR1-2_Scot	8.54
RM_OR1-2_Eng	14.75	Army_OR1-4_Wales	6.66	RAF_OR1-2_Cyprus	3.18
		Army_OR1-4_Cyprus	9.38		
		Army_OR1-4_Germany	6.88		
		Army_OR1-4_NonUK	27.68		
		Army_OR1-2_Eng	38.95		

5. Analysis and statistical tests

Attitudinal questions in the questionnaires have generally been regrouped to assist in analysing results and to aid interpretation. For example, questions asked at a 5-point level (e.g. Very satisfied – Satisfied – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied – Dissatisfied – Very dissatisfied) have been regrouped to a 3-point level (e.g. (Satisfied – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied – Dissatisfied)).

Missing values, where respondents have not provided a response/valid response, or 'don't know' or 'not applicable' responses have not always been included in the analysis. If they have been excluded then this will be detailed in table footnotes.

Some questions are filtered to exclude invalid responses. For example, questions about children's schooling will be subset to those respondents with school age children. These "subsets" are detailed in table footnotes. As a result of these exclusions the unweighted counts (or 'n') will vary from question to question and these are shown within the reference tables published alongside this report on the FAMCAS webpage here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>

Where applicable, Z tests at a 1% alpha level were used to test whether observed estimates were significantly different to estimates from previous surveys. A statistically significant difference

means that there is enough evidence that the change observed is unlikely to be due to chance variation (less than a 1% probability that the difference is the result of chance alone).

6. Format of the reference tables (published separately to the report on the FAMCAS webpage here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>)

Each reference table refers to a question asked in the survey and includes estimates of the proportion of the population by category. Each table is broken down by Service and also by Officer/Other Rank with the All Ranks column referring to the Officers and Other Ranks results combined.

Section 8 of the report looks at the impact of mobility on Service families. These tables compare results for respondents who moved for Service reasons to those who did not move. As such the format of these tables differs. These are all provided at Annex B.

Excel tables are also available with additional breakdown of the spouse/civil partners broad location (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales & Non UK), which are provided at Annex C.

Glossary

Armed Forces Covenant	The Armed Forces Covenant defines the principles for ensuring that Armed Forces personnel are not disadvantaged in their access to public and commercial services as a result of their service. It also sets out that in some cases special treatment may be appropriate, for example for those that have given the most, such as the injured and the bereaved.
Armed Forces Pay Review Body	Provides independent advice to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence on the pay and charges for members of the Naval, Military and Air Forces of the Crown.
Defence Board	The highest committee in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and is responsible for the full range of Defence business, other than the conduct of operations.
HIVE	Service information hub which assists personnel in a wide variety of topics affecting their everyday Service and personal life
JPA	Joint Personnel Administration - JPA is the system used by the Armed Forces to deal with matters of pay, leave and other personal administrative tasks
Married	Refers to those married or in a civil partnership
Marines	RM personnel of NATO ranks OR1 to OR9
Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee (MODREC)	Ensures that all research involving human participants undertaken, funded or sponsored by the MOD meets nationally and internationally accepted ethical standards
Missing at Random (MAR)	Statistical theory that states that those who did not respond to a question do not differ from those who did respond
Missing value(s)	Refers to the situation where a respondent has not submitted an answer or a valid answer to a question
MOD	Ministry of Defence
N/A	Not applicable
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
Non-response	Refers either to a person who although sampled and sent a questionnaire did not reply or to a respondent who did not reply to a question
OF	Officer of NATO rank designation ranking from '1' lowest to '10' highest
Officer(s)	All regular trained officers of NATO ranks OF1 to OF10
Operational/Deployment Welfare Package	Measures taken to support the morale of Service personnel by making the fullest possible provision for their emotional and physical wellbeing whilst on operational deployment
OR	Other Ranks of NATO rank designation ranking from 'OR1' lowest to 'OR9' highest
Other Rank(s)	Other Ranks are members of the Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force who are not Officers. The equivalent group in the Royal Navy is known as "Ratings".
RAF	Royal Air Force
RM	Royal Marines
RN	Royal Navy
Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR)	In the context of the Services, refers to a Review of what needed to be done to restructure and rescale the size of the Armed Forces to meet future Defence requirements of the UK's national security.
Service Accommodation	Any type of accommodation that includes 'SFA', 'SSFA', 'SLA', 'SSLA' and 'Onboard a ship or submarine'
Service(s)	Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and RAF

SFA	Service Family Accommodation
SLA	Single Living Accommodation
SNCO	Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NATO ranks OR6 to OR9)
Soldiers	Army personnel of NATO ranks OR1 to OR9
Special Educational Need (SEN)	Children who have needs or disabilities that affect their ability to learn
Spouse	Refers to spouses and civil partners
SSFA	Substitute Service Family Accommodation
SSSA	Substitute single Service Accommodation. Formerly Substitute Single Living Accommodation (SSLA)
Standard Error	A measure derived using weighting factors from the sample proportion and unweighted count in a sampling distribution and used as a benchmark in order to ascertain a range of values within which the true population proportion could lie
Statistically significant	Refers to the result of a statistical test in which there is evidence of a change in proportions between years
Statistical tests	Refers to those tests which are carried out to see if any evidence exists for a change in response proportions from one year to another
Trained strength	Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Unit	A sub-organisation of the Service in which personnel are employed
Unweighted count	Refers to the actual number who provided a valid response to a question in the survey
Weighting (factors)	Refers to factors that are applied to the respondent data set by Service and rank group in order to make respondent Service rank groups representative of their population equivalents
Weighting class	Refers to those members of a specific rank group to whom a weighting factor is applied
X-Factor	Additional payment to Armed Forces personnel to compensate for differences in lifestyle, working conditions and expectations compared to civilian equivalents
z test	Statistical test based on a standardised distribution which allows comparison between years for populations of different sizes

Further Information

Contact Us

Defence Statistics welcomes feedback on our statistical products. If you have any comments or questions about this publication or about our statistics in general, you can contact us as follows:

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<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

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