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of Defence

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14 December 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 15 November in which you requested the following information:

"Could you please provide:

- * What is the "liability" of 77th Brigade i.e what is the total number of personnel that the brigade should have.*
- * What is the current manpower size of 77th brigade? What is the gender split? What is the split by ethnic group? Can you also please show the split between regular and reserves?*
- * What is current shortfall in 77th Brigade manpower?*
- * What are the five most critical pinch-points in 77th Brigade?*
- * How many individuals have been recruited into the brigade in the last 12 months? How does this compare with the recruitment target for the last 12 months?"*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some of information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested is as follows:

1. What is the "liability" of 77th Brigade i.e what is the total number of personnel that the brigade should have?

Total liability for the Brigade is 182 Regular and 266 Reserve personnel. However, the Reserve liability was increased from 236 in October 2016.

2. What is the current manpower size of 77 Brigade?

The current number of personnel within the Brigade is 153 Regular and 123 Reserve. The shortfall in the Reserve numbers is partly due to the recent increase in liability referred to above but is, in the main, due to the fact 77 Brigade is a new formation and it takes time for this capability to be built up. However, I can confirm that the Army is pleased with the rate of growth of the Brigade and that it is attracting trained personnel of the right knowledge, skill and experience required for its roles.

3. What is the gender split?

The gender split is 84% male and 16% female. The percentage of females in 77 Brigade is higher than the Army (Regular and Reserve) of 10%.

4. What is the split by ethnic group?

Ethnic Groups are taken from the Joint Personnel Administration database:

Ethnic Group	% of Bde Pers
Black and Minority Ethnic	7.6
White Background	92.4

Due to the low numbers involved, the BAME numbers have been consolidated to avoid individuals from being identified. The diversity % is in line with the general wider trend, and the Army is looking to reach an intake of 10% BAME by 2020.

5. Can you also please show the split between regular and reserves?

See the answer to question two.

6. What is current shortfall in 77th Brigade manpower?

The current shortfall of manning across the Brigade is 29 Regular and 143 Reserve. As stated previously, some of the Reserve shortfall is due to the recent uplift in liability and the fact it takes time to build a new capability.

7. What are the five most critical pinch-points in 77th Brigade?

Pinch-point is a term related to specific trades or specialities. The majority of 77 Brigade is manned by personnel who do not fall into these categories and so there are no pinch-point trades or Cap Badges.

8. How many individuals have been recruited into the brigade in the last 12 months?

For the period 1 November 2015 and 31 October 2016, a total of 125 personnel have joined or to be re-assigned to the Brigade of which 49 are Reserve and 76 are Regular personnel (tri-service).

9. How does this compare with the recruitment target for the last 12 months?

Recruitment demand is created by turnover of military staff after a default posting period and the varying demand for specialist Knowledge Skills and Experience that is provided by Reserve personnel. As a result there are no set recruiting targets for 77 Brigade. The Army is, however, pleased with the level of growth and skills of personnel within the Brigade.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team,

Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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

Yours sincerely,


Disclosure and Litigation Leader