

ARMED FORCES VISITS TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND

ForcesWatch, December 2014

SUMMARY

This report has been compiled by ForcesWatch and is co-sponsored by the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS).^{1 2}

This report analyses the number and distribution of armed forces visits to schools in Scotland during the academic years of 2010-11 and 2011-12. The report focuses on these two years as the Army was unable to provide data for 2012-13.

The analysis is based on data provided by the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force under the Freedom of Information Act. There are strong indications that the data does not represent the full picture; the figures presented here should therefore be read as the minimum number of visits.

During the two-year period:

- The armed forces recorded **1783 visits to 377 Scottish education institutions. 1455 visits were to 303 Scottish state secondary schools**, of which **42% were made by the Army, 31% by the Navy and 27% by the RAF**. This equates to an **average of two visits per year for every state secondary school in Scotland**.
- Across Scotland, **83% of all state secondary schools** (303 schools out of a total of 367) were visited at least once during the two year period.
- Armed forces visits to **state secondary schools account for 95% of all visits at the secondary level and 100% of all visits made by the Army**. Only **28 independent schools in Scotland providing secondary education (50%)** were visited by the armed forces during the two-year period.
- **Edinburgh, Fife, North Lanarkshire, Angus, Dumfries & Galloway, and Perth & Kinross** recorded the highest number of visits to state secondary schools from the armed forces as a whole (more than 80 visits).
- Of the 32 Scottish local authorities, **50% (16) had armed forces visits to all, or almost all, of their state secondary schools (95% or more)**.
- **31 state secondary schools were visited 10 times or more** during the period and between them accounted for nearly one third (31%) of all visits to state secondary schools. **Six were visited 20 times or more**.
- **All Army visits were made to state secondary schools**; they made no visits to independent schools.
- Further education and sixth-form colleges were in general visited more frequently than secondary schools. **27 colleges were visited during the 2 year period, an average of 8 times each**. Three colleges were each visited 20 times or more.

-
- **Careers-related activities accounted for 35% of all visits.** Visits described as mainly curriculum-related accounted for 20% of all visits and those that focus on the development of the students accounted for 42%.
 - Visits not expressly described as careers-related may nonetheless promote armed forces careers. Despite assurances by the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces that they do not recruit in schools, **many of the activities provided by members of the armed forces in schools are recruitment-related and the armed forces' policy of visiting schools has a recruitment purpose that is linked to defence needs.**

INTRODUCTION

This report analyses the number and distribution of armed forces visits to schools in Scotland during the academic years of 2010-11 and 2011-12. It focuses on visits to state secondary schools, which account for 95% of visits at the secondary level. It then looks at the broader picture of visits to independent schools and further education and sixth-form colleges, and the number of visits to Scotland in relation to other parts of the UK.

The report considers the armed forces' activities in schools and discusses the extent to which these have a recruitment purpose.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The data presented in this report was obtained through Freedom of Information requests to the British Army, Royal Navy and RAF.³ The following information was requested by local authority area: a list of schools visited by members of the armed forces, how many times schools have been visited and the date of each visit, year group(s) visited and the kind of activity engaged in (e.g. recruitment-related, curriculum-related, development-related, and other categories).

Data was requested for the academic years 2010-11 and 2011-12. The data from each service was received in different formats and was adjusted to remove visits that lay outside of the 2010-12 academic years or in a few instances were to schools not in Scotland. A small number of activities for secondary pupils which could not be allocated to individual schools are not included. Schools were then identified by local authority area, level of education (primary, secondary, further and higher) and by whether they are in the state or independent sector.

Further data for 2012-13 was obtained for the Navy and RAF but was unavailable for the Army at the time of the request and as a result, this analysis is unable to include more recent data.⁴

Definition of 'school visit'

Data for the three armed services for the period was collected and presented in different formats. The Navy did not provide detail on age group or the exact date of the visits. The Army listed some different activities on the same day at the same school as separate visits. The data was standardised so that a visit to a school relates to a single day; more than one activity on the same day in a single school counts as one visit and an activity that stretches over more than one day counts as two or more visits. A visit may therefore encompass more than one activity with more than one year group.

DATA ACCURACY

The dataset received for the whole of Scotland for 2010-11 and 2012-13 did not include a number of visits reported in two further datasets covering overlapping periods. These additional visits, for the RAF and the Army, were added to the main dataset.²

Overall figures for the number of visits to secondary schools and colleges in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for 2011-12 were supplied by the Ministry of Defence in response to a Parliamentary Question in April 2013.⁵ These figures suggest that 304 visits were made in Scotland by the Navy in 2011-12, 491 by the Army and 416 by the RAF - a total of 1211 visits during the year. The comparable figures recorded in the Freedom of Information data analysed here are 267 (Navy), 347 (Army) and 221 (RAF) - a total of 835 visits during 2011-12 (table 5).⁶ The Freedom of Information figures thus record over 350 fewer visits than those given by the Ministry of Defence.

In response to a request for data on visits to schools for 2012-13, the Army stated that it did not have 'confidence in the consistency or completeness of individual school data for the period in question'.⁷ This statement and the discrepancies in the datasets described above suggest that visits to schools have not been fully recorded by the armed forces or have been recorded in a variety of formats, making comparison difficult. This could also account for the relatively few visits recorded by the Army for 2010-11 and 2011-12 in the local authorities in the west of the central belt, including Glasgow. The data presented here should therefore be read as the minimum number of visits.

ARMED FORCES VISITS TO STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The armed forces recorded 1455 visits to 303 Scottish state secondary schools (not including schools for special educational needs) during the academic years of 2010-11 and 2011-12; 42% were made by the Army, 31% by the Navy and 27% by the RAF (table 1). All services recorded fewer visits in 2011-12 than 2010-11 (see note on Data Accuracy above).

Visits to state secondary schools account for 95% of all armed forces visits at the secondary level and 100% of all visits made by the Army (table 5).

	Number of armed forces visits to state secondary schools			
	Navy	RAF	Army	all
<i>Sept 2010 - Aug 2012 (% all state secondary visits)</i>	<i>447 (31%)</i>	<i>392 (27%)</i>	<i>616 (42%)</i>	<i>1455 (100%)</i>
Sept 2010 - Aug 2011	237	210	324	771
Sept 2011 - Aug 2012	210	182	292	684
Special schools, sixth form and further education colleges are not included.				

Table 1. Armed forces visits to state secondary schools in Scotland by service and academic year.

Number of visits by local authority area

Note: There are relatively few visits recorded by the Army for 2010-11 and 2011-12 in the local authority areas in the west of the central belt, including Glasgow (table 2 and figure 1). This could be the result of under-reporting of visits to individual schools which is an issue that has been identified by the Army (see note on Data Accuracy above).

Local authority areas that recorded the highest number of visits to state secondary schools from all the armed services were, in descending order, Edinburgh, Fife, North Lanarkshire, Angus, Dumfries & Galloway, and Perth & Kinross (table 2). These six areas had between 80 and 146 visits to schools during the two years and between them they accounted for 42% of all visits to state secondary schools in Scotland. Edinburgh and

Fife had substantially more visits than any other areas. Very few visits were recorded in Clackmannanshire, Orkney and Inverclyde.

The distribution of visits for each service between local authority areas is also quite polarised. The five areas that received most visits from the Navy to state secondary schools were North Lanarkshire, Aberdeenshire, North Ayrshire, Fife, and Moray; these five areas account for 42% of all visits by the Navy. North Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Aberdeenshire, South Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire were most visited by the RAF; these five areas account for 38% of all RAF visits. The five areas that received most visits from the Army were Edinburgh, Dumfries & Galloway, Fife, Angus, and Perth & Kinross; these five areas account for 59% of all visits made by the Army. Ten local authority areas received less than five visits to state secondary schools from the Navy, nine areas received less than five visits by the RAF and 12 received less than five by the Army. The areas most and least visited differs for each of the services.

Across Scotland, 83% of all state secondary schools (303 out of 367 schools) were visited by one or more of the armed forces during the two year period (table 2).

	Number of armed forces visits to state secondary schools and number of schools visited by local authority area and service, 2010-2012									
	Navy		RAF		Army		all armed forces		schools in area	
	visits to schools	schools visited	visits to schools	schools visited	visits to schools	schools visited	visits to schools	schools visited	total number	% visited
Scotland	447	182	392	198	616	173	1455	303	367	83
Aberdeen City	15	7	6	5	7	4	28	9	12	75
Aberdeenshire	40	16	27	11	10	6	77	17	17	100
Angus	18	7	13	6	54	6	85	7	8	88
Argyll & Bute	11	7	11	5	0	0	22	8	10	80
Clackmannanshire	0	0	6	3	0	0	6	3	3	100
Dumfries & Galloway	3	2	3	3	74	16	80	16	16	100
Dundee City	7	7	11	7	16	7	34	9	9	100
East Ayrshire	7	5	21	9	10	6	38	9	9	100
East Dunbartonshire	9	4	7	4	0	0	16	5	8	63
East Lothian	4	4	5	2	9	4	18	5	6	83
East Renfrewshire	24	4	9	5	0	0	33	5	7	71
Edinburgh City	14	9	18	7	114	22	146	22	23	96
Eilean Siar	1	1	0	0	14	3	15	3	8	38
Falkirk	15	6	14	8	3	1	32	8	8	100
Fife	34	12	19	12	73	15	126	18	19	95
Glasgow City	15	9	33	18	23	10	71	21	31	68
Highland	23	11	2	2	40	11	65	16	29	55
Inverclyde	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	6	33
Midlothian	6	4	3	3	15	6	24	6	6	100
Moray	29	4	3	3	6	2	38	6	8	75
North Ayrshire	38	7	20	9	13	5	71	9	9	100
North Lanarkshire	48	10	41	19	12	6	101	21	24	88
Orkney Islands	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	5	20
Perth & Kinross	23	8	11	6	46	9	80	10	10	100
Renfrewshire	5	4	11	5	0	0	16	7	11	64
Scottish Borders	2	2	5	2	15	8	22	9	9	100
Shetland Islands	4	4	8	5	0	0	12	5	8	63
South Ayrshire	9	6	25	8	4	3	38	8	8	100
South Lanarkshire	15	7	23	15	18	11	56	17	17	100
Stirling	7	6	20	7	1	1	28	7	7	100
West Dunbartonshire	2	2	8	3	0	0	10	3	5	60
West Lothian	19	7	7	4	38	10	64	11	11	100

Special schools, sixth-form and further education colleges are not included.

Table 2. Armed forces visits to Scottish state secondary schools by local authority area during 2010-2012

Of the 32 Scottish local authorities, 50% (16) had armed forces visits to 95-100% of their state secondary schools (table 2 and figure 1). Only in three local authorities were fewer than 50% of their schools visited. Dumfries & Galloway, Edinburgh, Perth & Kinross, Scottish Borders, Midlothian and West Lothian all had over 95% of their schools visited by the Army alone (table 2). Aberdeenshire, Angus and Stirling had over 95% of their schools visited by the Navy. Clackmannanshire, East Ayrshire, Falkirk, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and Stirling all had over 95% of their schools visited by the RAF.

	Average number of visits to all state secondary schools by local authority area and service, 2010-2012			
	Navy	RAF	Army	all
Scotland	1.2	1.1	1.7	4.0
Aberdeen City	1.3	0.5	0.6	2.3
Aberdeenshire	2.4	1.6	0.6	4.5
Angus	2.3	1.6	6.8	10.6
Argyll & Bute	1.1	1.1	0.0	2.2
Clackmannanshire	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
Dumfries & Galloway	0.2	0.2	4.6	5.0
Dundee City	0.8	1.2	1.8	3.8
East Ayrshire	0.8	2.3	1.1	4.2
East Dunbartonshire	1.1	0.9	0.0	2.0
East Lothian	0.7	0.8	1.5	3.0
East Renfrewshire	3.4	1.3	0.0	4.7
Edinburgh City	0.6	0.8	5.0	6.3
Eilean Siar	0.1	0.0	1.8	1.9
Falkirk	1.9	1.8	0.4	4.0
Fife	1.8	1.0	3.8	6.6
Glasgow	0.5	1.1	0.7	2.3
Highland	0.8	0.1	1.4	2.2
Inverclyde	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3
Midlothian	1.0	0.5	2.5	4.0
Moray	3.6	0.4	0.8	4.8
North Ayrshire	4.2	2.2	1.4	7.9
North Lanarkshire	2.0	1.7	0.5	4.2
Orkney Islands	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Perth & Kinross	2.3	1.1	4.6	8.0
Renfrewshire	0.5	1.0	0.0	1.5
Scottish Borders	0.2	0.6	1.7	2.4
Shetland Islands	0.5	1.0	0.0	1.5
South Ayrshire	1.1	3.1	0.5	4.8
South Lanarkshire	0.9	1.4	1.1	3.3
Stirling	1.0	2.9	0.1	4.0
West Dunbartonshire	0.4	1.6	0.0	2.0
West Lothian	1.7	0.6	3.5	5.8
Special schools, sixth form and further education colleges are not included.				
Scotland	1.2	1.1	1.7	4.0

Table 3. Average number of armed forces visits to each state secondary schools for Scottish local authority areas during 2010-2012

Average number of visits by local authority area

The number of armed forces visits equates to an average of two visits per year for every Scottish state school (4 visits in 2 years) (table 3). Schools in Angus had an average of 5 per year and schools in Perth & Kinross, Edinburgh, North Ayrshire and Fife all had an average of 3 or 4 per year. The Navy made an average of 1.2 visits to each state secondary school across Scotland during the two year period with the highest averages for schools in North Ayrshire, Moray and East Renfrewshire. The RAF made an average of 1.1 visits to each Scottish state secondary school during the two year period with the highest averages for schools in

South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, Stirling, North Ayrshire and Clackmannanshire. The Army made an average of 1.7 visits to each school with the highest averages for those in Angus, Edinburgh, Dumfries & Galloway, Perth & Kinross, West Lothian, and Fife where the Army visited every school an average number of two to three times a year.

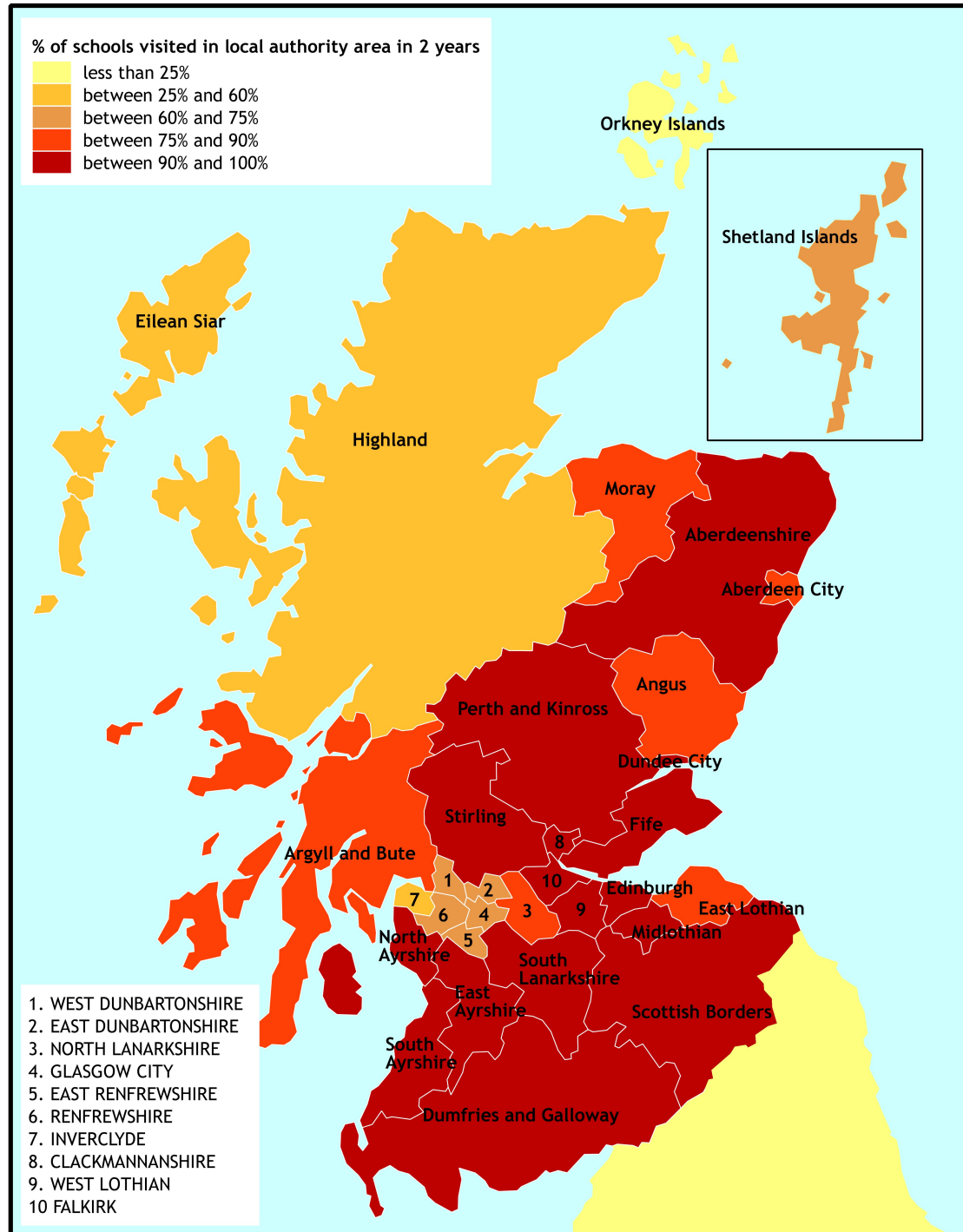


Figure 1. Percentage of state secondary schools visited by the armed forces during 2010-2012 by area

WHICH SCHOOLS ARE MOST VISITED?

A number of individual state secondary schools were visited many times each year (table 4). Arbroath Academy and Dunfermline High School each received 31 visits during the 2 year period, almost all made by the Army. 31 schools were visited 10 times or more during the period and between them accounted for nearly one third of all visits to state secondary schools.

State secondary schools	Local authority	Number of visits			
		Navy	RAF	Army	all
Arbroath Academy	Angus	1	3	27	31
Dunfermline High School	Fife	2	0	29	31
Inverkeithing High School	Fife	4	1	17	22
Perth Academy	Perth & Kinross	6	3	13	22
Balerno High School	Edinburgh City	2	3	16	21
Forres Academy	Moray	16	0	4	20
St Matthews Academy	North Ayrshire	9	5	2	16
Monterose Academy	Angus	8	0	7	15
Kirkcaldy High School	Fife	5	2	8	15
Greenwood Academy	North Ayrshire	12	3	0	15
Crieff High School	Perth & Kinross	6	2	7	15
St Lukes High School	East Renfrewshire	12	2	0	14
Firrhill High School	Edinburgh City	1	0	13	14
Queensferry High School	Edinburgh City	0	3	11	14
Forfar Academy	Angus	2	2	9	13
Charleston Academy	Highland	5	0	8	13
Bannockburn High School	Stirling	2	11	0	13
Ellon Academy	Aberdeenshire	6	6	0	12
Lochgelly High School	Fife	10	1	1	12
Our Lady's High School Cumbernauld	North Lanarkshire	8	4	0	12
Linlithgow Academy	West Lothian	2	3	7	12
Torry Academy	Aberdeen City	5	2	4	11
Millburn Academy	Highland	3	0	8	11
Greenfaulds High School	North Lanarkshire	5	6	0	11
Whitburn Academy	West Lothian	5	0	6	11
Castlebrae High School	Edinburgh City	0	0	10	10
Madras College - St Andrews	Fife	2	4	4	10
All Saints Secondary	Glasgow City	2	2	6	10
St Aidans High School	North Lanarkshire	6	4	0	10
St Maurice's High School	North Lanarkshire	8	2	0	10
Taylor High School	North Lanarkshire	10	0	0	10
total for schools visited 10 or more times in 2 years		165	74	217	456
% of all visits to state secondary schools		37%	19%	35%	31%
Special schools, sixth-form and further education colleges are not included.					

Table 4. Scottish state secondary schools visited by the armed forces 10 or more times during 2010-2012

COMPARISON WITH INDICATORS OF DEPRIVATION

There is concern that the armed forces target their recruitment activity and school visits to more deprived areas where they are likely to be more successful. A study of Army visits to schools in London found that, 'Army recruiters were particularly likely to visit the most disadvantaged schools: 51% in the most disadvantaged fifth were visited vs. 29% in the middle fifth and 40% of schools in the richest fifth (p=0.01)'.⁸ Both the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the House of Commons/Lords Joint Committee on Human Rights have recommended that the UK ensure that disadvantaged communities are not targeted for

recruitment.⁹ The Army says that it does not target schools in poorer areas although this is difficult to monitor as the armed forces do not publish statistics on the socio-economic background of those it recruits.¹⁰

The data on armed forces visits to schools in Scotland was mapped against data on the percentage of students eligible for free school meals in 2012, which is a widely used measure of the level of socio-economic disadvantage in a school.¹¹ In contrast with the London study, statistical analysis suggests that there is not a straightforward link between numbers of pupils on free school meals in individual schools and the number of visits to that school by the armed forces.¹² That is, schools in more deprived areas were not more likely than other schools to be visited.

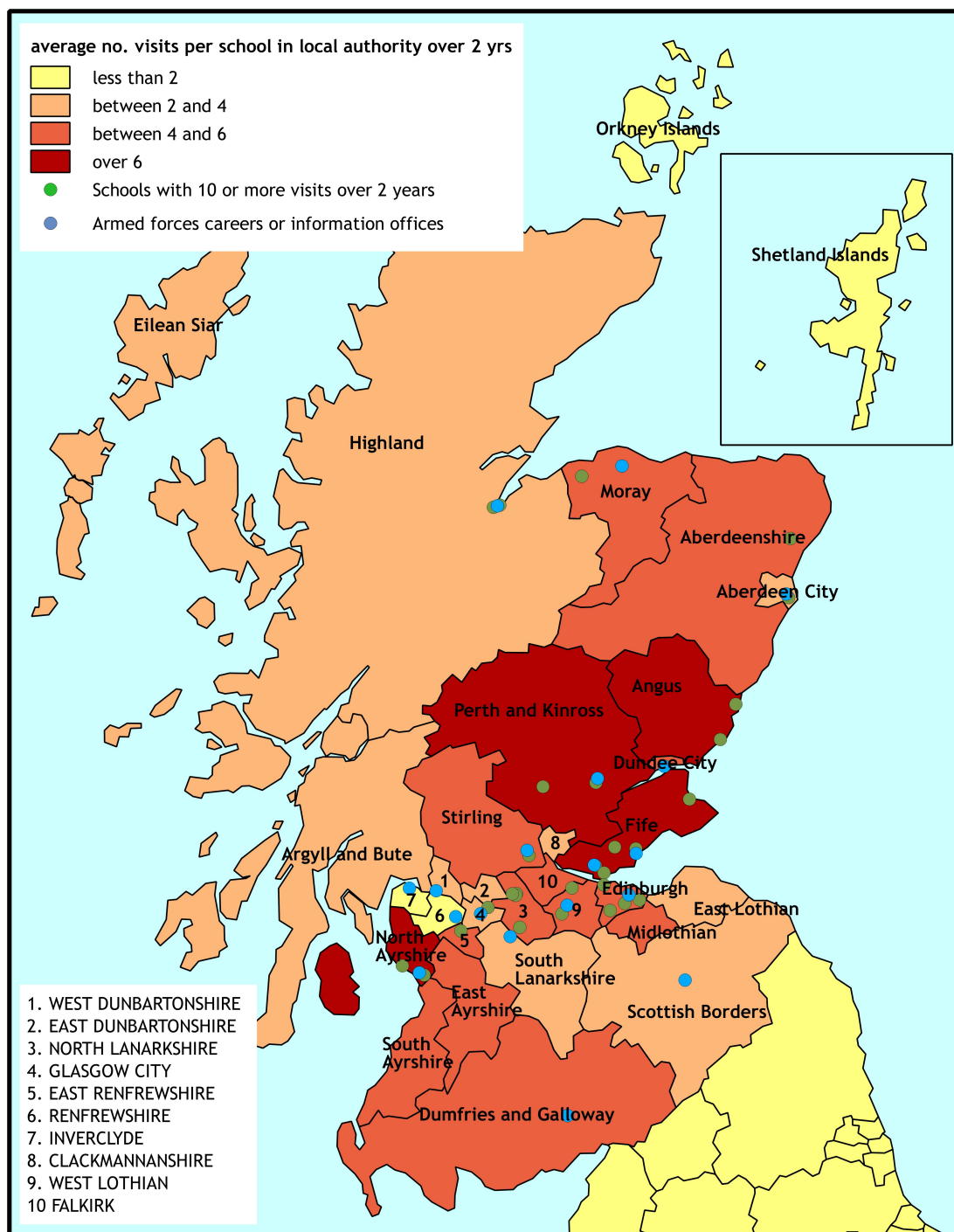


Figure 2. Average number of armed forces visits to each school in local authority area in 2010-12, showing location of highly visited schools and armed forces careers or information offices

A comparison with the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation also suggests that there is not a straightforward link between deprivation indicators for individual schools and number of visits; while over half of schools which received 10 or more visits in two years (18) were either in or adjacent to the 30% most deprived areas in Scotland, 10 of these schools were in the 30% of least deprived areas and not adjacent to other areas of deprivation.¹³

One factor that could explain why there is no apparent link between indicators of deprivation and the number of armed forces visits to schools in Scotland, while the London study does show a link, is that the proportion of schools visited is much higher in Scotland than in London; it is possible that the high level of coverage renders prioritisation between Scottish schools on socio-economic grounds less important.

While well-funded, the armed forces still needs to deploy resources to schools strategically and further factors are likely to influence which schools are visited.¹⁴ The location of armed forces careers offices and information offices are likely to play a part. In general the majority of these were located at the time in the east and central areas, which are also the most urban parts of Scotland.^{15 16} A similar geographical pattern is traced by both the areas with the highest average number of visits per school and the individual schools with the highest number of visits (figure 2).

A further factor is the relationship that the armed forces have built up with individual schools. The armed forces promote their offer to schools who may take it up for a variety of reasons, while other schools will choose not to. Some schools will have community or historical links with one or more of the armed services. The data suggest that the armed forces often repeat visits to a school on an annual basis, developing a long-term relationship with the school.

THE BROADER PICTURE - INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, SIXTH-FORM & FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES, PRIMARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Only 28 independent schools in Scotland providing secondary education were visited by the armed forces during the two-year period, resulting in 82 visits. Education Scotland records 56 independent secondary schools; half (50%) of these were visited by the armed forces during the academic years 2010-11 and 2011-12.¹⁷ This is far less than the rate at which state secondary schools were visited (83%). The Navy made 31 visits and the RAF made 51 visits; the Army made no visits at all to independent schools. Only 5% of all visits to secondary level schools were made to independent schools. One countervailing factor may be that Independent schools are more likely to run a Combined Cadet Force within the school; the armed forces may therefore already have access and influence within the school.¹⁸

	Number of armed forces visits to education institutions			
	Navy	RAF	Army	all
<i>Sept 2010 - Aug 2012</i>	570 (32%)	474 (27%)	739 (41%)	1783 (100%)
Sept 2010 - Aug 2011	303	253	392	948
Sept 2011 - Aug 2012	267	221	347	835
state secondary schools (% secondary visits)	447 (31%)	392 (27%)	616 (42%)	1455 (100%)
further education / sixth form colleges	66 (31%)	29 (13%)	120 (56%)	215 (100%)
independent secondary schools (% secondary visits)	31 (38%)	51 (62%)	0 (0%)	82 (100%)
other *	26	2	3	31
<i>Sept 2012 - Aug 2013</i>	204	215	**	

* primary schools and higher education institutions for which data not requested, and schools for special educational needs. ** data not available

Table 5. Armed forces visits to education institutions in Scotland by service and academic year.

Further education and sixth-form colleges were in general visited a greater number of times per institution than secondary schools. 27 colleges were visited during the two-year period, an average of eight times each. 56% of these visits were made by the Army, 31% by the Navy and 13% by the RAF. Overall, 215 visits were made by the armed forces to Scottish colleges over two years. Nine further education and sixth-form colleges were visited 10 or more times during the two-year period, receiving 157 visits between them, accounting for 73% of visits to colleges and 9% of visits to all educational institutions. Telford College and Jewel & Esk College in Edinburgh, and Dundee College, were each visited 20 or more times during the period.

A small number of visits were recorded to primary schools (nine by the Navy, two by the RAF), although this data was not requested so further visits may have been made. Nearly 40 schools that were visited by the armed forces cater for both primary and secondary age pupils; although activities are generally aimed at older age groups, it is likely that primary age children would encounter the armed forces within the school.

Two schools providing for special educational needs recorded visits by the armed forces: Gorgie Mills School in Edinburgh was visited by the Navy and Army and Burnhouse School in West Lothian was visited by the Army.

COMPARISON WITH THE REST OF THE UK

Figures for the total number of armed forces visits to secondary schools and colleges in 2011-2012 for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were given in response to a Parliamentary Question in April 2013.¹⁹ This suggested that a total of 1,211 visits were made to Scottish secondary schools (state and independent) and colleges during the year. A total of 10,824 were made across the UK as a whole. Scottish visits therefore represent 11.2% of the total UK visits. However, its population accounts for only 8.4% of the total UK population, indicating that proportionately more visits are made to Scottish schools.²⁰ A similar picture emerges for Wales and Northern Ireland.

There is no comparable analysis of armed forces visits to individual schools across the UK as a whole as access to data is restricted by Freedom of Information limitations. However, ForcesWatch have analysed data for a number of other areas in the UK and have found some similarly high rates of armed forces visits to schools, particularly in comparison to independent schools.²¹

WHAT DO THE ARMED FORCES DO IN SCHOOLS?

Most of the data on armed forces visits to schools included information on what activities were undertaken during the visit. Although this information was recorded in different ways across the services (and by different regions in the data provided by the Army), it is possible to estimate the proportion of visits that involved different types of activity. Where visits involved more than one activity, they are all included as separate activities in the estimated proportion.

Careers-related activities (careers fairs or conventions, presentations about the armed forces, youth engagement teams, etc) accounted for 35% of all visits across the services (table 5). These activities will actively promote the armed forces as a career option. Curriculum-related visits (workshops, Army in Education activities and involvement in specific subjects such as citizenship) accounted for 20% of all visits. Activities that focus on the development of the students such as team building, leadership, interview techniques, and exercise and fitness accounted for 42% of all visits. The majority of visits by the Navy and Army involved careers and development-related activities; the majority of visits by the RAF involved development-related activities.

While careers-related activities are clearly promoting recruitment to the armed forces, the curriculum and development-related activities are less obviously linked. However, many of the development activities are

focused on skills that are needed for armed forces employment and many of the curriculum activities use the armed forces as the subject matter. The Defence Dynamics website (operational until January 2011 but now no longer maintained) aimed 'to deliver an exciting resource to support interest in key curriculum subjects, while improving young people's understanding of the breadth and nature of the MOD's work'.²² The Army's Personal Development Activity aims 'to develop leadership, teamwork, confidence, and communication skills in them - whilst giving them the opportunity to speak to soldiers and officers about the opportunities available in a career in the Army.'²³ The RAF describe their 'Curriculum Support Visits' as, 'Activities delivered by the Outreach Teams in support of National Curriculum objectives namely the Maths/Science Mission Learning tools that enable visiting personnel to deliver lesson plans & objectives that dovetail in with the National Curriculum albeit with a "RAF" theme, using service lifescenarios in the lesson plans.'²⁴ So, while these activities may not be primarily concerned with promoting a career in the armed forces, they are likely to include a substantial promotional element.

	Armed forces visits to state secondary schools, 2010-2012: activity types by service (%)			
	Navy	RAF	Army	all
Careers-related	46	20	39	35
Curriculum-related	7	28	22	20
Development-related (including exercise)	45	50	36	42
meetings with teachers	1	2	3	2
other	1	0	0	1
	100	100	100	100

Table 6. Armed forces activities in Scottish schools, 2010-2012

DO THE ARMED FORCES RECRUIT IN SCHOOLS?

The armed forces state that they do not visit schools for recruitment purposes and that they, 'would only ever visit a school after being invited by a teacher to support school activities.' They go on to state that, 'Similar contributions to schools are made by the police, fire, ambulance and other emergency services. The armed forces get numerous requests from schools each year and the three services take these opportunities to explain to children their role to protect the nation and pass on valuable skills such as leadership, teamwork and citizenship.'²⁵

This statement raises three questions:

Can the armed forces activities in schools be categorised as promoting recruitment?

The Ministry of Defence have responded to concerns raised by ForcesWatch on this issue with the following statement: 'The Armed Forces do not 'recruit' in schools. No pupil or student is ever 'signed-up' or otherwise makes a commitment to become a recruit into the Armed Forces during the course of any school visit by our representatives.'²⁶

While there has been no suggestion that the armed forces are actually committing young people to a career in the forces during their visits to schools, it is clear that at least one third of visits aim to actively promote the armed services as a career option. That recruitment is one of the main objectives of many, if not most, of these visits is made clear in a number of Ministry of Defence documents such as the *Youth Engagement Review* of 2011, which makes an explicit link between armed forces activities in schools and recruitment, which in tandem with raising 'awareness of the Armed Forces' role in the world and the quality of its work and people, in order to ensure the continued support of the population', make up two 'defence outcomes'.²⁷

An earlier MoD document, *Engagement with UK Schools* states that, 'Our overall rationale for engaging with schools is to encourage good citizenship, provide an environment which raises awareness of the MOD and Armed Forces among young people, provide positive information to influence future opinion formers, and to enable recruiters to access the school environments.'²⁸

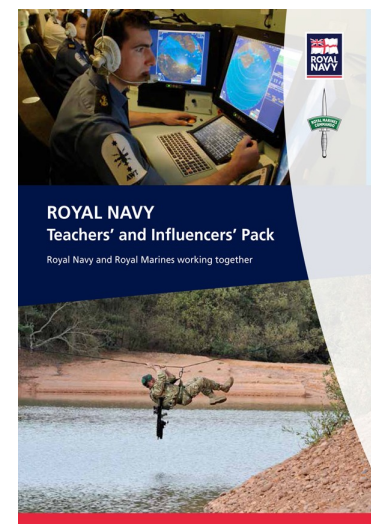
The House of Commons Defence Select Committee's report on *Recruitment and Retention* in 2008 makes clear that, not only do the military perceive the service personnel who go into schools as 'recruiters', but that they and the Defence Committee have sought to establish a more systematic approach to engaging with school pupils for the purpose of recruiting.²⁹ The Government's response to the report notes, under the heading 'Recruiting and Schools', that, 'The Ministry of Defence agrees that recruitment activity in schools can be better co-ordinated.' It goes on to note that, 'Experience indicates that single Service visits produce the best recruiting results, as individuals sign up for a specific Service rather than the Armed Forces', and that there are 'marked differences in the geographical areas and the types of events targeted by each Service in order to optimise return on investment.'³⁰ The report also states that the 'Ministry of Defence would welcome any assistance that the Members of Parliament could provide in overcoming these barriers to access and enabling the Armed Forces to develop productive relationships with more schools.'³¹

So, despite assurances by the military that the armed forces do not recruit in schools, it is evident that the recruitment potential of visits is a key purpose of many, if not most, of their visits to schools.

To what extent do the armed forces only 'ever visit after being invited by a teacher'?

The armed forces claim that they only ever visit a school after an invitation has been received. This masks the fact that first contact with the school is often made by the armed forces to request an invitation.³² One such request sent by the Army emphasises the career and training potential of a life in the Army for students leaving school. Another from the Navy (see image) is addressed to 'Teachers and Influencers'.³³ The term 'gatekeeper' is also used by the armed forces in a school context; this suggests a level of recognition that schools and teachers are authority figures in young people's lives and therefore also need to be influenced by the armed forces.³⁴

While there is no imperative for schools to accept a visit from the armed forces, it is clear that the forces do a significant amount of promotion in order to generate invitations. It is also understandable that schools will be keen to accept free resources where they are available.



Are 'similar contributions to schools made by the police, fire, ambulance and other emergency services'?

Freedom of Information requests to the emergency services in Scotland suggest that few, if any, have the level of engagement with schools and colleges that is maintained by the armed forces. Police Scotland record around 60 educational visits to schools and colleges for the academic year 2012-2013.³⁵ The Scottish Ambulance Service state that visits to schools are not part of their core service (with the exception of emergency-related training for teachers) and any visits are organised by staff on a purely voluntary basis.³⁶ Correspondence with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service suggests that, while they do visit schools for presentations and workshops, these mainly relate to fire safety; only a small proportion of visits are to promote a career in the fire service.³⁷

While this picture of emergency service educational visits to schools is not complete, it is adequate to conclude that it is likely that the armed forces visit schools and colleges on a far greater scale than other services.

CONCLUSION

This report reveals that, at minimum, 83% of all Scottish state secondary schools were visited by one or more of the armed forces during the academic years of 2010-11 and 2011-12. In half of all local authority areas, every state secondary school, or almost every school, was visited. This is far higher than the rate of visits to independent schools. The number of visits equated to an average of two visits per year for every school in Scotland although some schools were visited many times while others not at all.

The Army, Navy and RAF do not necessarily visit the same schools; schools may have a relationship with one of the forces but not the others. The Army made substantially higher number of visits to state secondary schools than the other services although none at all to independent schools, while the Navy and RAF do visit independent schools.

The direct promotion of the armed forces as a career accounted for over one third of all visits while other activities indirectly promote it. Despite assurances by the Ministry of Defence and the three armed services that the armed forces do not recruit in schools, it is evident that many of the activities provided by members of the armed forces in schools are recruitment-related and the recruitment potential of visits is a key purpose of many, if not most, of their visits to schools.

The military rely on a very narrow definition of 'recruitment' to counter fears that it is taking place in schools. However, the picture presented here suggests that, with a more commonly accepted understanding of the term, significant ethical questions are raised for both schools and armed forces personnel that visit them. The vulnerability of young people to armed forces promotional material and the risks of an armed forces career have been well documented.³⁸ While the armed forces maintain an approach to 'youth engagement' that puts defence outcomes first, schools must reconsider the high degree of access to students that it gives them and the importance of promoting critical awareness and debate amongst students around the issues it raises.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank colleagues for comments on this paper and special thanks to Anna Goodman for her statistical input.

ORGANISATIONS AND CONTACT DETAILS

This report has been compiled by **ForcesWatch** and is co-sponsored by the **Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)** which is the largest teaching union in Scotland. See <http://www.eis.org.uk>

ForcesWatch is a British-based campaigning organisation which scrutinises the ethical basis of the recruitment of young people into the armed forces. We advocate changes to policy, raise public awareness of the issues and challenge the armed forces on their recruitment practices, especially those aimed at the youngest and most disadvantaged groups. See <http://forceswatch.net>

For further information, please contact Emma Sangster on office@forceswatch.net

This report may be copied and distributed freely for non-commercial purposes.

CITATION

Please cite this paper as: Sangster, E. (2014). *Armed forces visits to secondary schools in Scotland*. (London: ForcesWatch). Available at: www.forceswatch.net/content/armed-forces-visits-schools-scotland

NOTES & REFERENCES

- 1 ForcesWatch critically scrutinises the ethical basis of the recruitment of young people into the armed forces. We advocate changes to policy, raise public awareness of the issues and challenge the armed forces on their recruitment practices, especially those aimed at the youngest and most disadvantaged groups. See <http://forceswatch.net>
- 2 The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) is the largest teaching union in Scotland. See <http://www.eis.org.uk>.
- 3 The Freedom of Information data is available at:
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/scottish_school_visits
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/activity_in_schools_3
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/army_visits_to_scottish_schools
 The data has been aggregated and duplicates removed; contact ForcesWatch for further information.
- 4 See https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/army_visits_to_scottish_schools
- 5 Hansard, HC (2013). 15 April 2013. *Armed Forces: Schools*
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130415/text/130415w0003.htm>
- 6 The comparable figures for 2011-12 include a small number of visits to primary and special schools and higher education institutions.
- 7 See https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/army_visits_to_scottish_schools
- 8 See Gee, D. and Goodman, A. (2010). *Army recruiters visit London's poorest schools most often*. Available at <http://www.informedchoice.org.uk/armyvisitschools.pdf>
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 British Army (2009). Letter from Headquarters Army Recruiting and Training Division to David Gee in response to a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. 11 December 2009
- 11 Scottish Government (2012). *School meals and PE dataset*. Available at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/MealsSD/mealspesd/mealspesd2012>
- 12 Statistical analysis was conducted to explore the association between school size, percentage of pupils registered for free school meals (%FSM) and the number of armed forces visits using data for 366 Scottish state secondary schools. The analysis showed no evidence of variation across most of the range of school-size or %FSM, with some trend for independent effects of being a very small school and of having a very low %FSM (these factors are related). Contact ForcesWatch for further information.
- 13 Scottish Government (2012). *Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation*. Available at: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD?utm_source=website&utm_medium=navigation&utm_campaign=statistics-evaluation-tools
- 14 House of Commons Defence Committee (2008). *Recruiting and Retaining Armed Forces Personnel (Fourteenth Report of Session 2007-08)*. Available at: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmdfence/1074/107402.htm>.
- 15 In 2013, the Government announced the closure of most of the Army recruiting offices in Scotland; five remain open.
- 16 Scottish Government (2012). *Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification 2011-2012*. Available at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification/Urban-Rural-Classification-2011-12>
- 17 See Education Scotland: <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/>
- 18 See a list of Scottish schools with Combined Cadet Forces at: <http://www.lowlandrfca.org.uk/Cadets/combinedcadetforce.aspx> and <http://hrfca.co.uk/index.php/army-cadet-forces-scotland>
- 19 See 5.
- 20 National Records of Scotland, *Mid-2011 and Mid-2012 Population Estimates Scotland*. Available at:
<http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/population-estimates/mid2012/1112mype-cahb-tab2b.pdf>
- 21 ForcesWatch (2013). *Military activity in UK schools*. Available at: <http://forceswatch.net/resources/forceswatch-briefing-military-activities-uk-schools>. Also see 8. for an analysis of armed forces visits to schools in London which found that the Army had visited 40% of London schools in an eight month period.
- 22 An archived version of Defence Dynamics is accessible at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.defencedynamics.mod.uk/>
- 23 See http://www.army.mod.uk/training_education/25675.aspx accessed on 3 November 2014
- 24 See https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/army_visits_to_scottish_schools
- 25 See 5.
- 26 See letter from Mark Francois MP, Minister of State for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans to the National Assembly for Wales, 30 September 2013. Available at: <http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s21391/30.09.2013%20Correspondence%20-%20Ministry%20of%20Defence%20to%20the%20Chair.pdf>
- 27 Ministry of Defence (2011), *Youth Engagement Review* and Ministry of Defence (2012), *Youth Engagement Review: a summary and way forward*. Both available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-engagement-review>
- 28 Ministry of Defence (2007), *Engagement with UK Schools*. House of Commons Library deposited paper DEP2008-2922
- 29 Ministry of Defence (2008), 'Memorandum from the Ministry of Defence' in House of Commons Defence Committee *Recruiting and Retaining Armed Forces Personnel, (Fourteenth Report of Session 2007-08)* page 27. Available at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmdfence/1074/107402.htm>.

- 30 Government response to the House of Commons Defence Committee (2008). *Recruiting and Retaining Armed Forces Personnel (Fourteenth Report of Session 2007-08)* page 17. Available at:
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmdfence/1074/1074.pdf>
- 31 Ibid, page 8.
- 32 For examples of armed forces promotional material sent to schools see
<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/178452/response/457452/attach/4/Teachers%20Pack.pdf> and
<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/178452/response/457452/attach/3/20121026%20Head%20Teachers%20Schools%20Letter%20U%202.pdf>
- 33 See <https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/178452/response/457452/attach/5/Bilingual%20email%20design%2003.06.13.jpg>
- 34 For use of the term 'gatekeeper', see, for example, the explanation of school visits data here:
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/army_visits_to_scottish_schools
- 35 See https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/visits_to_scottish_schools_and_c
- 36 See https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/educational_visits_to_scottish_s
- 37 See https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/educational_visits_to_scottish_s_2
- 38 See more information see, for example, Gee, D. (2007). *Informed Choice? Armed forces recruitment practice in the United Kingdom*, available at: <http://informedchoice.org.uk/informedchoice/index.php>; Gee, D. (2013). *The Last Ambush? Aspects of mental health in the British armed forces* (London: ForcesWatch), available at: <http://www.forceswatch.net/content/last-ambush>; Gee, D. and Goodman, A. (2013), *Young age at Army enlistment is associated with greater war zone risks: An analysis of British Army fatalities in Afghanistan* (London: ForcesWatch; Child Soldiers International), available at <http://www.forceswatch.net/content/youngest-soldiers-face-greatest-risks>