

## ARMED FORCES VISITS TO SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND: AN UPDATE FOR 2016-2017

*ForcesWatch, <sup>1</sup> November 2017*

### INTRODUCTION

Data on armed forces visits to schools for 2016-2017 was requested by Scotland's Deputy First Minister from the Ministry of Defence for the Public Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament. The committee is hearing evidence for the petition put forward by ForcesWatch and Quakers in Scotland, *PE01603: Ensuring greater scrutiny, guidance and consultation on armed forces visits to schools in Scotland*.<sup>2</sup>

Data for the Army, Navy and RAF was provided in separate files and in different formats covering the period from April 2016 to June/July 2017.<sup>3</sup> Each record consists of an individual visit to a named school, the date and location of the visit and what activity was undertaken.

The data has been processed to remove records outside of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 in order to understand the extent of visits annually. Duplicates (more than one visit by the same service to the same school on the same date) were removed and records were assigned to a local authority area, level of education and whether the school is state funded or independent.<sup>4</sup>

The focus of this analysis is visits to primary and secondary level schools. Sixth form colleges, further education colleges and universities are not included. Although the data recorded 115 colleges and 42 universities visits by the Army and Navy, comparable data is not available for the RAF and it is not clear if data for further and higher education was requested.

The data is comparable to that used in the report *Armed forces visits to schools in Scotland* (ForcesWatch, 2014), which should be read for further commentary.<sup>5</sup>

### MAIN RESULTS

- 770 visits were made by the armed forces to schools in Scotland between April 16 and March 17, including a small number to primary schools and special schools.
- The Army made 58% of all visits.
- 68% of state secondary schools are visited in one year, some many times.
- Three-quarters (75.5%) of visits are promoting a career in the armed forces.
- State schools are visited far more than independent schools, even taking into account that they are far larger in number.

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1 ForcesWatch 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 See the Petition page at <http://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/armedforcesvisitsstoschools> and more information here: <https://www.forceswatch.net/content/scottish-parliament-petition>

3 See 2.

4 The data is available in spreadsheet format from ForcesWatch on request.

5 Available at <https://www.forceswatch.net/content/armed-forces-visits-schools-scotland>

## NUMBER OF VISITS TO SCHOOLS

From 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, 770 visits were made by the armed forces to schools in Scotland. The Army made 446 visits (58% of all visits made), the Navy made 168 and the RAF made 156 - see table 1.

Of the 770 visits made by the armed forces to schools in Scotland:

- 743 (96.5%) were made to state schools
- 27 (3.5%) were made to independent schools
- 3 (0.4%) were made to special schools
- 8 (1%) were made to primary schools. This does not include some schools, particularly independent schools, which cater for both primary and secondary age groups. Of these visits, seven were made by the RAF and one by the Navy. The Army has stated that it does not visit year groups below S2. Anecdotal evidence suggests that visits made to primary schools are based on a close association with the school, e.g. through a parent in the forces, which suggests that visits may not always be arranged through formal channels and therefore not recorded in this data.

## PROPORTION OF SCHOOLS VISITED

Out of 361 state secondary schools in Scotland in 2016-17, 244 (68%) were visited by the armed forces at least once during the April 2016 to March 2017 period - see table 1.

While the largest number of visits were recorded in Glasgow, Aberdeenshire, Fife, Highland, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire, these are local authorities with relatively high numbers of schools, so not every school was visited. Some other areas with a smaller number of schools had all, or almost all of their schools visited. Eilean Siar, Orkney and Shetland Islands received very few visits.

## DISTRIBUTION OF VISITS

Most visits were recorded in the following local authority areas: Fife, Glasgow, Highland, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire (table 1).

- The Army made most visits to: Aberdeenshire, Fife, Glasgow, Highland, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire.
- The Navy made most visits to: Fife, Highland, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire.
- The RAF made most visits to: East Ayrshire, Glasgow, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire.

Table 2 shows schools which were visited five or more times during the year by either the Army, Navy or RAF. Four schools were visited more than 10 times. Together these 47 schools make up 42% of all visits (326 visits) by the armed forces to schools.

State schools are visited far more than independent schools (even taking into account that they are far larger in number). Only 27 (3.5%) of visits were made to independent schools. This is an indication that while the armed forces may not actively target schools in areas of deprivation, more emphasis is put on schools with certain demographics.

The location of Armed Forces Careers Offices and bases will influence which areas and schools are most visited, as will established relationships with individual schools and a significant armed forces presence within the community. When considering the link between deprivation and those students of most interest to armed forces recruiters, it is also important to take account the differing backgrounds and available opportunities of students *within* a school.

**Table 1: Schools visited by the armed forces between April 2016 and March 17 by local authority**

	Navy	%	Army	%	RAF	%	All	%	state secondary schools		% of schools in area visited
									in area	visited	
Aberdeen City	3	1.8	9	2.0	0	0.0	12	1.6	12	6	50
Aberdeenshire	7	4.2	35	7.8	0	0.0	42	5.5	17	15	88
Angus	5	3.0	11	2.5	0	0.0	16	2.1	8	7	88
Argyll & Bute	7	4.2	9	2.0	3	1.9	19	2.5	10	9	90
Clackmannanshire	1	0.6	5	1.1	0	0.0	6	0.8	3	3	100
Dumfries & Galloway	0	0.0	1	0.2	4	2.6	5	0.6	16	4	25
Dundee City	2	1.2	4	0.9	0	0.0	6	0.8	9	2	22
East Ayrshire	5	3.0	16	3.6	17	10.9	38	4.9	9	7	78
East Dunbartonshire	6	3.6	17	3.8	6	3.8	29	3.8	8	6	75
East Lothian	1	0.6	2	0.4	0	0.0	3	0.4	6	2	33
East Renfrewshire	5	3.0	7	1.6	5	3.2	17	2.2	7	6	86
Edinburgh City	6	3.6	10	2.2	0	0.0	16	2.1	23	8	35
Eilean Siar	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	4	1	25
Falkirk	6	3.6	12	2.7	2	1.3	20	2.6	8	7	88
Fife	15	8.9	34	7.6	3	1.9	52	6.8	19	16	84
Glasgow	9	5.4	36	8.1	31	19.9	76	9.9	31	27	87
Highland	17	10.1	25	5.6	6	3.8	48	6.2	29	14	48
Inverclyde	2	1.2	5	1.1	3	1.9	10	1.3	6	3	50
Midlothian	4	2.4	8	1.8	1	0.6	13	1.7	6	5	83
Moray	3	1.8	10	2.2	0	0.0	13	1.7	8	4	50
North Ayrshire	5	3.0	16	3.6	13	8.3	34	4.4	9	9	100
North Lanarkshire	19	11.3	54	12.1	22	14.1	95	12.3	23	18	78
Orkney Islands	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1	5	1	20
Perth & Kinross	8	4.8	23	5.2	0	0.0	31	4.0	10	10	100
Renfrewshire	3	1.8	15	3.4	4	2.6	22	2.9	11	10	91
Scottish Borders	2	1.2	7	1.6	0	0.0	9	1.2	9	5	56
Shetland Islands	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	0	0
South Ayrshire	4	2.4	5	1.1	13	8.3	22	2.9	8	6	75
South Lanarkshire	10	6.0	40	9.0	12	7.7	62	8.1	17	14	82
Stirling	5	3.0	15	3.4	5	3.2	25	3.2	7	7	100
West Dunbartonshire	3	1.8	5	1.1	4	2.6	12	1.6	5	4	80
West Lothian	4	2.4	9	2.0	2	1.3	15	1.9	11	8	73
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>68</b>
Includes a small number of visits involving multiple schools and to non-school venues. Duplicate records (more than one visit made by same service to same school on same day) have been removed. Does not include visits to colleges or universities.									Number of schools by local authority area is for 2016-17		

**Table 2: Scottish schools visited five or more times by the armed forces, April 16 to March 2017**

Ellon Academy	Aberdeenshire	13	Buckie High School	Moray	8
Monifieth High School	Angus	6	Airdrie Academy	North Lanarkshire	15
Hermitage Academy	Argyll & Bute	8	Ardrossan Academy	North Ayrshire	6
Loudoun Academy	East Ayrshire	9	Greenwood Academy	North Ayrshire	5
St Joseph's Academy	East Ayrshire	9	Largs Academy	North Ayrshire	6
Auchinleck Academy	East Ayrshire	5	Cardinal Newman High School	North Lanarkshire	9
Bishopbriggs Academy	East Dunbartonshire	5	Coatbridge High School	North Lanarkshire	5
Kirkintilloch High School	East Dunbartonshire	6	Greenfaulds High School	North Lanarkshire	11
Lenzie Academy	East Dunbartonshire	8	Kilsyth Academy	North Lanarkshire	6
Braes High School	Falkirk	8	St Margaret's High School	North Lanarkshire	7
Inverkeithing High School	Fife	5	St Maurice's High School	North Lanarkshire	7
Queen Anne High School	Fife	9	Kinross High School	Perth & Kinross	5
St Andrew's RC High School	Fife	7	Perth Academy	Perth & Kinross	5
Cleveden Secondary	Glasgow City	9	Perth Grammar	Perth & Kinross	8
Holyrood Secondary School	Glasgow City	5	Renfrew High School	Renfrewshire	5
Knightswood Secondary School	Glasgow City	5	Prestwick Academy	South Ayrshire	6
Rosshall Academy	Glasgow City	5	Lanark Grammar	South Lanarkshire	6
Smithycroft Secondary School	Glasgow City	5	Larkhall Academy	South Lanarkshire	12
Dornoch Academy	Highland	5	Lesmahagow High School	South Lanarkshire	5
Fortrose Academy	Highland	9	St Andrew's and St Bride's High School	South Lanarkshire	5
Glenurquhart High School	Highland	5	Strathaven Academy	South Lanarkshire	6
Inverness Royal Academy	Highland	5	Uddingston Grammar	South Lanarkshire	5
Nairn Academy	Highland	8	Wallace High School	Stirling	9
Inverclyde Academy	Inverclyde	5			

## ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS

The visits have been manually coded by ForcesWatch into careers-related events and a variety of other activities, which differ by service - see tables below. The figures in bold show activities where a career in the armed forces is a main focus of the event: 82.3% for the army, 59.5% for the navy and 73.1% for the RAF. Across all three services 75.5% of visits were focused around careers. As explained below, it is likely that some emphasis on promoting a career in the armed forces is also part of other activities.

In providing this data, as with all other communications about armed forces visits to schools, the MoD state that they, 'reiterate that our Armed Forces never visit schools for recruitment purposes and only visit when they have been invited by the school to support activities. Whilst presentations may be given highlighting the careers available in the Armed Forces, no pupil or School student is ever signed-up or able to make a commitment to become a recruit in the Armed Forces during the course of a visit.' We discuss the problems with this narrow definition of recruitment elsewhere.<sup>6</sup>

Over 80% of army visits to Scottish schools were for the purpose of promoting a career in the army. The Army website lists what is involved in careers presentations, personal development activities and education liaison - see figure 1. It is unclear what is involved in AiE Liaison but it is delivered by army careers advisors. The personal development activities also involve a careers element through meeting serving personnel. This is substantiated by an outreach team from England which refers to IPDA as aimed at potential candidates, and containing, 'elements designed to inform young people of the opportunities available in a career in the Army, inform them about the recruiting process, and motivate them to formally apply in the future.'<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.forceswatch.net/resources/recruitment-agenda-behind-engagement-schools>

<sup>7</sup> <https://thomasadams.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/AiE-and-Work-Experience-Flyer-Shrewsbury1.pdf>


Army	Number of visits	% of total visits
Careers (event/fair/presentation/visit)	314	70.4
AiE - Army in Education	30	6.7
STEM -Science Technology Engineering & Maths	2	0.4
CCF - Combined Cadet Force	1	0.2
IPDA - Introductory Personal Development Activity	53	11.9
Curriculum support	49	11
total	446	
A small number of visits have multiple activities listed so percentages add up to more than 100. AiE is listed as AiE Liaison		


Figure 1: From the Teachers page of the British Army Website <sup>8</sup>

### Careers Presentation

To help bring to life the opportunities that are available in the Army including job roles, routes of entry and education and training, we offer an interactive, multimedia presentation to engage, excite and inform students. The presentation can be adapted to suit the audience and time available.

[Contact us](#)





### PDA

Resilience, Team Building and Leadership Activity (formally known as Personal Development Activity)


These activities involve students completing a variety of mentally and physically challenging activities (team tasks and physical fitness). The aim is to develop resilience, leadership, teamwork, confidence and communication skills in them – whilst giving them the opportunity to speak to soldiers and officers serving in the British Army.

[Contact us](#)

### Education Liaison

The Army has a nationwide network of career advisers ready to offer a wide variety of support to education establishments across the spectrum Secondary - HE.

[Contact us](#)



Only one visit to cadet forces in schools is recorded. This suggests that visits to cadet forces from serving personnel are not part of this recording system. Only a small number of cadet forces are operating in state schools in Scotland although a version of cadets is being developed which could make them more widespread.<sup>9</sup> A number of independent schools in Scotland have cadet forces.

Curriculum activities, including STEM, are focused around armed forces concerns so, while not explicitly promoting an army career, they are aimed at raising the awareness of students about what the armed forces do. The Army website offers citizenship workshops (focusing on the Army's role during a national emergency - flooding), science workshops (focusing on a humanitarian mission scenario) and First World War support to schools.

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.army.mod.uk/training\\_education/25675.aspx](http://www.army.mod.uk/training_education/25675.aspx) Accessed 4 November 2017.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2015-07-09.HL1278.h&s=cadet> and [http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15076292.Army\\_Cadet\\_Force\\_units\\_ruled\\_out\\_at\\_Scottish\\_state\\_schools/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15076292.Army_Cadet_Force_units_ruled_out_at_Scottish_state_schools/)

The citizenship and science workshops are delivered by personnel from local Army Careers Offices. The Army website states with reference to the Soldiers to Schools support for First World War teaching that, 'The Army has directed that Soldiers to Schools is not to be combined with recruiting activities. The soldiers have been selected from local Regular and Reserve units across the wider Army, rather than specific recruiting organisations.' They also state that, 'Due to the breadth of the subject matter, soldiers are unable to be experts in all aspects of the First World War. However, they are experts at a personal level on what it means to be a soldier and, with limited research, they are able to explain comparisons and contrasts between the Army of 1914-1918 and of today.'

The Army website also offers employability skills and work experience to schools. The latter comprises a 5 day course, including to, 'demonstrate the training and education opportunities available in a career in the Army.' The involvement of students in this work experience is not included in the data presented above but schools will offer it to their students.<sup>10</sup>

Royal Navy	Number of visits	% of total visits
Careers (convention, event, presentation etc)	100	59.5
Team building/leadership exercises/cooking and healthy living/interview skills	59	35.1
STEM -Science Technology Engineering & Maths	7	4.2
Music	1	0.6
other	5	3
total	168	
A small number of visits have more than one activity listed so percentages add up to more than 100%		

RAF	Number of visits	% of total visits
Careers	114	73.1
STEM	25	16
Skills	22	14.1
Outreach	10	6.4
Liaison	7	4.5
total	156	
A small number of visits have more than one activity listed so percentages add up to more than 100%. Outreach is a general term so it unclear what these visits involve. Liaison involves establishing a relationship with school.		

## COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS DATA

The overall level of annual visits to schools in Scotland is comparable with the data for 2010-12 previously analysed.<sup>11</sup> That data showed 771 visits to Scottish secondary schools from Sept 2010 to August 2011 and 684 visits for September 2011 to August 2012. The 2016-17 shows 735 visits to Scottish secondary schools. The Army's share of visits is greater in the 2016-17 dataset.

One significant difference is that a higher proportion of visits are identifiable as careers-related in the recent data - 75% rather than 35% during 2010-12. This may be a result of changes in how visits are recorded as well as changes in emphasis on what is provided to schools.

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/ArbroathAcad/status/790489922171969536>

[https://twitter.com/Ellon\\_Ac/status/732563831172521984](https://twitter.com/Ellon_Ac/status/732563831172521984)

<sup>11</sup> See 5.