



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

CENSUS 2021 - 21 March



Census includes a question on Armed Forces Veterans ... we offer some useful information

Why is there a question about Veterans in the Census?

This is the first time that the Census has included a question about UK Armed Forces veterans in the ten year survey by the Office for National Statistics. It follows campaigning to include one by the Royal British Legion, veteran charities and a range of public organisations and partnerships.

The question is intended to define the true number of UK Armed Forces veterans we have in the community, where they are and what their needs are. A lack of data has in the past resulted in veterans running the risk of being poorly represented regarding funding and service provision. Census findings will help to address this. Look out for your census pack in the post. It will show you how to complete the process.

The census is a legal requirement, but we urge veterans to register the fact that they have previously served in the forces.

Why does it matter to South Kesteven District Council?

SKDC has signed the Armed Forces Military Covenant and the council holds a Silver Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. We know that we have a sizeable military presence within South Kesteven, but if we know the true size of that we can do more to engage with and support an important and much valued part of our wider district community. Census will provide us with that information.

What's a Veteran?

Many people who are veterans do not actually recognise that they are.

A Veteran is anyone who has served - for even one day - in Her Majesty's Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve) or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations. All those who only partially completed training, anyone who underwent National Service in the Armed Forces and everyone who served in the Reserves, not just the Regulars, are veterans.

In short, if you've ever been issued with a military or Service Identification Number then you ARE a veteran! (See our full list of regular and reserve armed forces)

What is the question?

Have you previously served in the forces?

Currently serving members should select “No”

Select all that apply

Yes, previously served in Regular Armed Forces

Yes, previously served in Regular Armed Forces

Or

No

Points to Note

If you served in the Regulars and left, but have joined the Reserves then tick the ‘Regulars’ box. If you served in the Regulars and left, but joined the Reserves and have since left the Reserves then tick both boxes.

I have served in some sensitive areas of the world and I am concerned about possibly making that public. Should I tick the box?

It’s understandable that veterans might feel reluctance about details of their military career but the Census is a national scheme with protections around the use of data. So it is perfectly safe to tick the appropriate box.

Just how safe is this data?

Many people, including veterans and other members of society, remain suspicious about revealing personal data to authorities, in this case the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Please be assured that ONS is an independent body and separate from Government. **All data is anonymised for analysis.**

All individual personal data you provide is therefore safe and will not be shared with other Government bodies. This information is protected by law and is stored by ONS for 100 years from the date of the Census.

Further information on the Census <https://census.gov.uk/>

If you have served in any of the following then you are a “VETERAN”:

Regular Armed Forces

- Royal Navy Regular
- Royal Marines Regular
- British Army Regular
- Royal Air Force Regular
- National Service
- Gurkhas
- Ulster Defence Regiment
- Royal Irish Rangers
- Royal Irish Regiment

Reserve Armed Forces

- Full Time Reserve Service
- Part Time Reserve Service
- Royal Naval Reserve
- Women’s Royal Naval Service
- Royal Marines Reserve
- Royal Fleet Reserve
- Royal Fleet Auxiliary
- Royal Navy Sponsored Reserve
- Army Reserve
- Territorial Army
- Auxiliary Territorial Service
- Army Sponsored Reserve
- Ulster Defence Regiment
- Royal Irish Rangers
- Royal Irish Regiment
- Royal Air Force Reserve
- Royal Air Force Sponsored Reserve
- RAF Reserve of Officers
- RAF Reserve of Ranks
- Royal Auxiliary Air Force
- Women’s Auxiliary Air Force
- Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
- Royal Air Force Sponsored Reserve
- Called-out Reservists
- Home Guard