

# Meeting the Needs Research: Study to Understand the Characteristics and Needs of the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy Communities

**Participant Information Sheet: Serving Personnel and Partners (Survey)**  
**Project Number: 024034.000**

**Study title:** Meeting the Needs of RAF and RN Families

**MODREC Application No:** 2299/MODREC/24

Thank you for your interest in our study. This short survey focuses on your experiences of serving in the Royal Air Force (RAF), Royal Navy (RN) or Royal Marines (RM). Participation in this survey is entirely anonymous and voluntary, you can refuse to participate without any repercussions and can withdraw from the survey at any point.

## **What is the purpose of the research?**

This survey is part of RAND Europe's research to understand the experiences of RAF and RN/RM families.<sup>1</sup> This includes issues and challenges RAF and RN/RM families (including partners and children) face, what support needs RAF and RN/RM families may have, and to what extent these are being addressed. The overall aim is to support the RAF Benevolent Fund, Greenwich Hospital, and other organisations in their work to support RAF and RN/RM families.

## **Who is doing this research?**

This research is being conducted by a team of researchers at RAND Europe on behalf of RAF Benevolent Fund and Greenwich Hospital. RAND Europe is a not-for-profit research institute whose mission is to help improve policy and decision-making through objective research and analysis.

## **Why have I been invited to take part?**

Participation in the survey is open to anyone who is:

- A serving member of the RAF or RN/RM Regular and Reserve forces;
- A long-term partner (e.g. spouse, civil partner) of a current Service member of the RAF or RN/RM Regular and Reserve forces;
- A divorced or separated spouse or civil partner of a member of the RAF or RN/RM Regular and Reserve forces.

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you can stop at any time.

## **Do I have to take part?**

No, participation is entirely voluntary. Whether you decide to take part or not is entirely up to you and nobody will be aware of your (non)participation unless you choose to disclose this. Your (non)participation will have no impact on your military career.

## **What will I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to complete an online survey hosted on SmartSurvey. This should take you between 20-30 minutes to complete. The survey will ask about issues and outcomes in relation to:

- day-to-day living
- emotional and mental wellbeing
- social and family relationships
- employment and training

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<sup>1</sup> British Army personnel and partners are not included in this research as this research seeks to understand the experiences, challenges and support needs of RAF and RN/RM families, with the aim of informing service provision by organisations that work specifically with RAF and RN/RM communities.

- financial wellbeing
- housing
- short- and long-term worries
- engagement with available support.

At the end of the survey, you will also have the opportunity to self-identify for an interview exploring these topics in more detail.

### **Are there any direct benefits to me of taking part?**

There is no direct benefit for everyone who participates in this study. If you complete the survey, you can enter into a prize draw to win between £25 and £250, either for yourself or for a charity of your choosing.<sup>2</sup> Entry into the prize draw is voluntary and the randomised draw will be conducted when all data collection is completed in 2025. You will not receive any other expenses or payments for taking part in the survey.

### **What are the possible disadvantages (or risks) of taking part?**

As part of this survey, you will be asked to reflect on your experiences, including cases where you may feel your needs were not recognised or met. While we hope that this does not happen, you may experience psychological distress while recollecting such experiences. If you do feel distressed as a result of the questions or you feel you need more support, the end of this information sheet references support services. Alternatively, you can contact a member of the research team who can signpost you.

### **Can I withdraw from the research?**

Yes. Taking part is voluntary; if you decide you would rather not take part, you do not have to continue with the survey. SmartSurvey stores responses as you progress through the survey and therefore, if you choose to terminate the survey before finishing it, all responses entered up until this point will still be included in the study. Given the anonymity of the survey, you will not be able to withdraw your responses once entered as we will not be able to identify them amongst others.

### **Will my taking part or not taking part affect my career?**

Your participation, or lack of participation, will have no effect on your career.

### **Who do I contact if I have any questions, concerns or complaints?**

For general questions, please contact the research team at [mtn\\_research@randeurope.org](mailto:mtn_research@randeurope.org).

### **For more specific questions, you can contact the project leader who is responsible for overseeing all research:**

Name: Linda Slapakova

Address: RAND Europe, Eastbrook House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8DR

Telephone Number: 01223 353 329

Email: [lslapako@randeurope.org](mailto:lslapako@randeurope.org)

### **Who do I contact if I have a complaint?**

Name: Mrs Rani Viknaraja

Role: RAND Europe Data Protection Officer

Address: RAND Europe, Eastbrook House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8DR

Email: [redpo@randeurope.org](mailto:redpo@randeurope.org)

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<sup>2</sup> The prizes to be won are: 1x £250, 1x £100, 1x £50 and 1x £25. There are four prizes and approximately 1400 people will be entered into the prize draw. This makes the odds of winning any prize 1 in 350 (0.29%) and the chance of winning the £250 prize 1 in 1400 (0.07%).

### Who do I contact for more support?

If taking part in this research raises any concerns or if you wish to seek additional advice and support, you might wish to contact:

#### Available support for current and former service personnel and their families:

- [The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Families Association \(SSAFA - The Armed Forces Charity\)](#) for welfare, health and support services for the UK military's serving personnel, veterans and their families.
- [Naval Families Federation \(NFF\)](#) for confidential support and advice for RN and RM service personnel and families. Email: [contactus@nff.org.uk](mailto:contactus@nff.org.uk). Phone: [02392 654374](tel:02392654374)
- [Royal Naval Benevolent Trust \(RNBT\)](#) for welfare support to Service and former-Service members of the Royal Navy, and their families.
- [Royal Marines Association](#) for support to Serving and former Serving Royal Marines and their families.
- [RN Family and People Support](#) for specialist advice for Royal Navy and Royal Marines Personnel and Partners. Email: [navypeople-psrnfpportal@mod.gov.uk](mailto:navypeople-psrnfpportal@mod.gov.uk). Phone: [0800 145 6088](tel:08001456088) or [02392 728777](tel:02392728777)
- [RAF Families Federation](#) provides independent information, guidance, support and advocacy for all RAF personnel (single, married or in a partnership) and their families. Email: [enquiries@raf-ff.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@raf-ff.org.uk). Phone: [01780 781650](tel:01780781650)
- [RAF Benevolent Fund](#) provides support for Serving and Former Serving Personnel and their families. Email: [welfare Navigators@rafbf.org.uk](mailto:welfare Navigators@rafbf.org.uk) Phone: [0300 102 1919](tel:03001021919)
- [Royal Air Forces Association \(RAFA\)](#) provides advice and support to the RAF community. Phone: [0800 018 2361](tel:08000182361)
- [RAF Community Support](#) provides support to RAF Serving Personnel and families and can be contacted through [this webpage](#).
- [Centre for Military Justice](#) for free, independent, expert legal advice.

#### Non-military specific support:

- [Citizens Advice](#) are able to offer general support on 0800 144 8848 (England) or 0800 702 2020 (Wales)
- [The Samaritans](#) can offer general emotional support on 116 123 or [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)
- [Victim Support](#) offer free confidential support to people affected by crime and traumatic events

### What happens if I suffer any harm?

If you suffer any harm as a direct result of taking part in this study, you can apply for compensation under the MOD's No-Fault Compensation Scheme.

### Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee (MODREC).

### Compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki

This study will be conducted in accordance with the principles defined in the Declaration of Helsinki<sup>3</sup> as adopted at the 64<sup>th</sup> WMA General Assembly at Fortaleza, Brazil in October 2013.

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<sup>3</sup> World Medical Association (2013).