



Evidence based findings about the British veteran population

The Ministry of Defence estimated that there were approximately 2.5 million UK Armed Forces veterans residing in households across Great Britain in 2016, based on responses to the Annual Population Survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. UK-wide, in 2016 the veteran population represented 5% of household residents aged over 16. Whilst the overall number of veterans residing in Great Britain is projected to decrease over the next years, the percentage of veterans of working age is projected to increase from 37% in 2016 to 44% by 2028.

The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research is a collective of academics, service providers and service users with an interest in improving the health and social wellbeing of veterans and their families across the life-span.

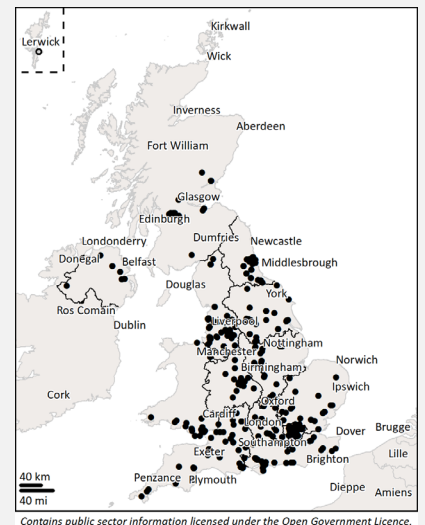
www.northumbria.ac.uk/militaryveterans

The 2011 Armed Forces Act provided a comprehensive legislative framework for the British Armed Forces and created the requirement for an annual Armed Forces covenant report to UK Parliament each year. In order to support the armed forces community more effectively, the UK Cabinet Sub Committee on the Armed Forces Covenant determined a necessity for evidence-based findings.

One of the main goals of the Map of Need project is to provide evidence-based findings about the veteran population. Data sharing partnerships are central to the analysis within the project, allowing us the ability to statistically compare multiple data sources when examining a veteran or family issue, and then compare these with wider research findings. The approach we have adopted seeks to use multiple data sources to provide end users with the most accurate picture of a phenomenon as possible.

By using service usage data, we are obtaining a reliable source of actual service usage.

Financial hardship and housing issues are the most prevalent topics affecting veterans that seek assistance from the main charities in the sector. The data shows that most of those that seek assistance for financial hardship are in fact older veterans (>50 years). Also, the veteran population seeking financial assistance is spatially differentiated based on the military branch that they served in. UK-wide, a similar pattern in all the data analysed suggests that benevolence payments to the veteran community cannot be explained by deprivation in a given area.



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- The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research developed an online directory of services available to the veteran community.

- The online directory is publicly available at:

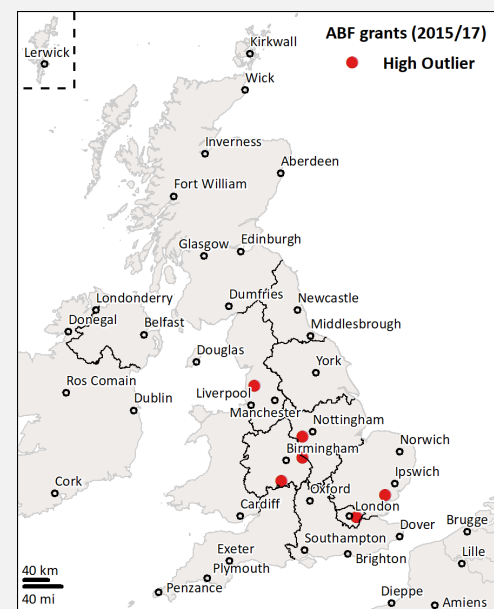
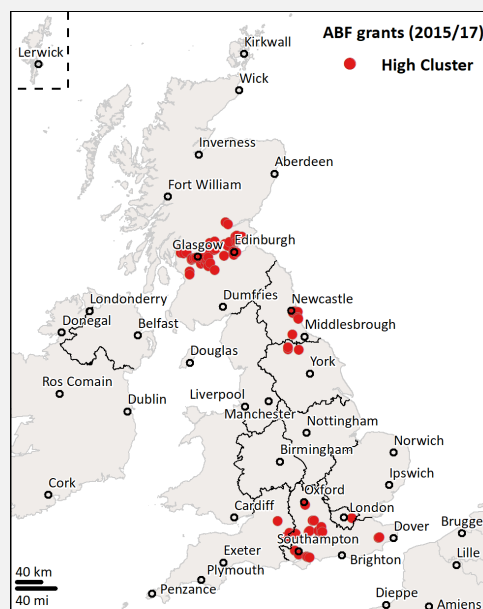
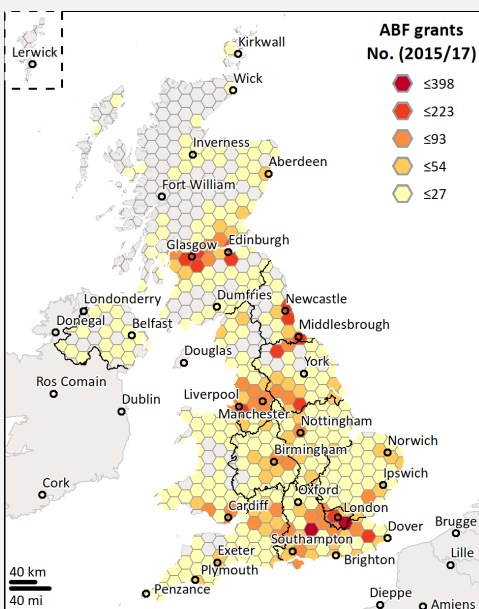
<https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/ocal-support/>

The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research

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ABF The Soldiers' Charity grants (2015/17)

- Based only on the cases used for the purpose of this analysis (N= 9,546), more than one third of the cases were concentrated in Scotland and England's South East. Scotland stood out with 17.8% (n= 1,699) of the cases.
- UK wide, the results show several clusters of postcodes with a high number of benevolence cases. The results allow to differentiate three main areas where clusters of ABF cases concentrate: Scotland, England's South East and North East.
- In England, Rushmore, Richmondshire and Ashford were the local authorities that registered the highest number of cases per 10,000 population. Regarding the other devolved administrations, the highest number of cases per 10,000 population were in North Down & Ards, Fermanagh & Omagh, Causeway Coast & Glens (Northern Ireland); Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire and Swansea (Wales); Inverclyde, Clackmannanshire, Argyll & Bute (Scotland).
- UK wide, the SE18 postcode is the main outlier. The SE18 postcode is in the local authority of Greenwich (London). This local authority registered 2.28% of the total ABF payments in the UK. The SE18 postcode alone registered 182 payments, 30.38% of the payments in the region of London. After meeting with the ABF, it became clear that this indicates a high level of financial hardship amongst Gurkha veterans that make a large community living in this area.
- The evidence suggests that ABF cases cannot be explained solely by overall or income deprivation in a given area, i.e., there are many areas of high deprivation within the general population that are not associated with ABF assistance.
- At a regional level, payments were better associated with the presence of military pension & compensation recipients, rather than overall or income deprivation. Therefore, this would suggest that the presence of military pension & compensation recipients is a good starting point when seeking to locate areas with Army veterans who are experiencing financial hardship.



- The data identified three large clusters of postcode districts in Scotland, England's South East and North East.
- The data also identified several 'outlier' postcode districts where postcodes with a high number of recipients were surrounded by postcodes with a low number of recipients.

