Northumbria University NEWCASTLE

The Map of Need Project

Royal Naval Benevolent Trust data: Main findings

ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

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.

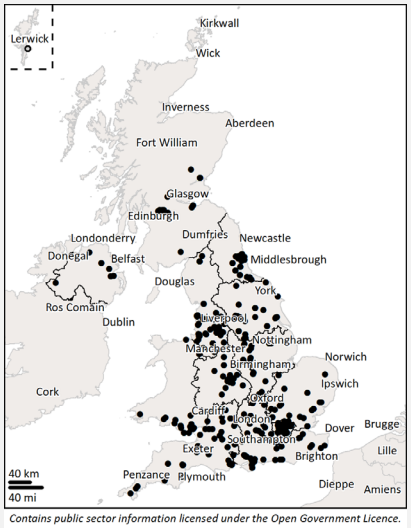
One of the main goals of the Map of Need project is to provide evidence-based findings about the veteran population. Data sharing partnerships are central to the analysis within the project, allowing us the ability to statistically compare multiple data sources when examining a veteran or family issue, 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.

- 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/local-support/

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

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The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (2015/17)

- Throughout the 2015/17 financial years and based only on the cases used for the purpose of this analysis (n= 4,290), the results show a yearly average of approximately 2,100 recipients of assistance across the UK.

- Almost half of the cases were concentrated in two regions: England's South East and South West. The South East stood out with 24% (n= 1,038) of the cases.

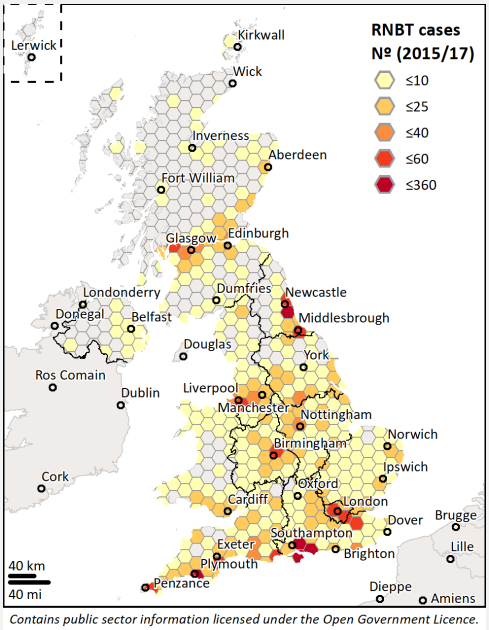
- Gosport, Portsmouth and Plymouth were the local authorities that registered the highest number of recipients per 10,000 population.

- Some local authorities with a high number of recipients per 10,000 population also have some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the UK.
    - Portsmouth, Plymouth, East Lindsey.

- However, many local authorities with a high number of recipients per 10,000 population and less deprived neighbourhoods could also be found.
    - Fareham, Purbeck, East Devon, South Hams, West Devon.

- The evidence suggests that RNBT 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 RNBT 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 veterans who are experiencing financial hardship.



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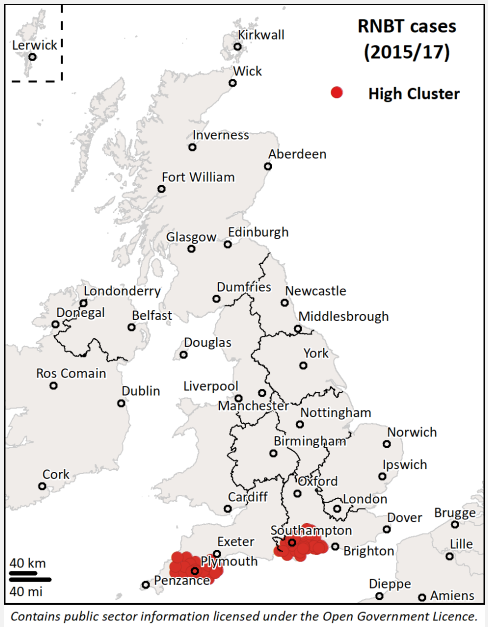

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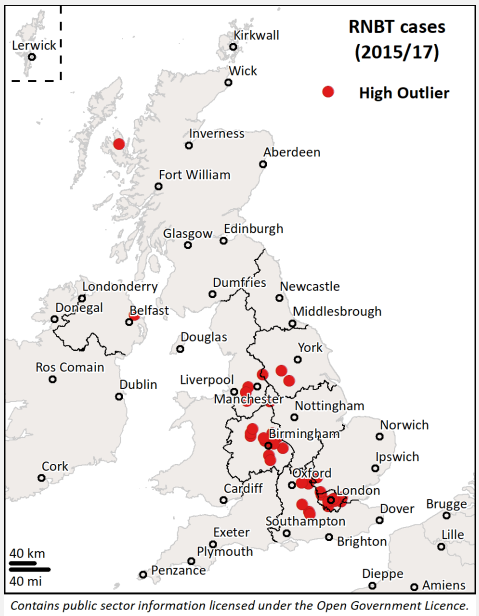

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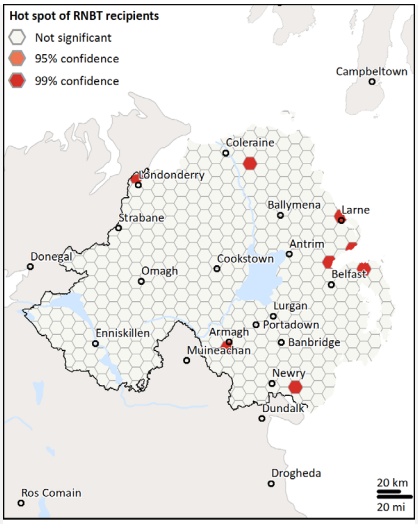
- The data identified two large clusters of postcode districts on and around Plymouth and Portsmouth.

- 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.
    - These postcodes could mostly be found in London, West Midlands, and the southernmost areas of the North West and Yorkshire.



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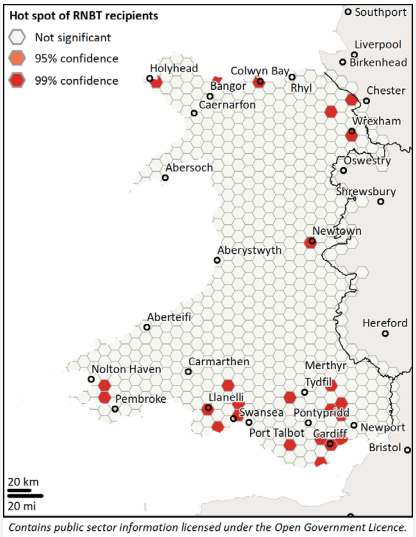

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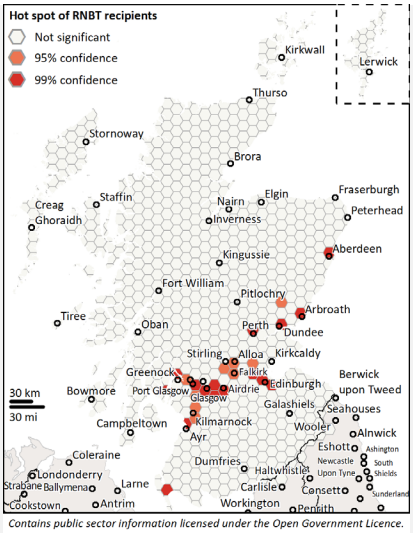

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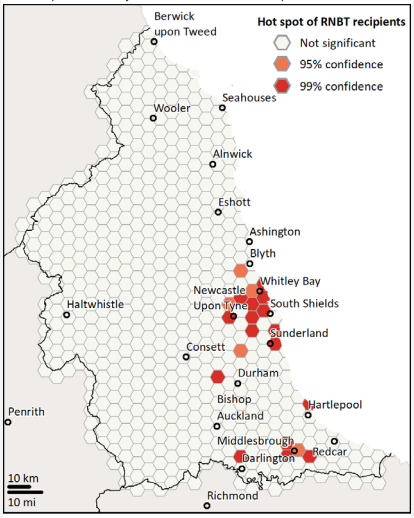

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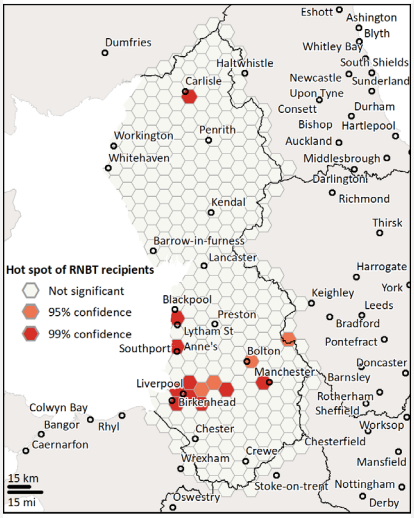

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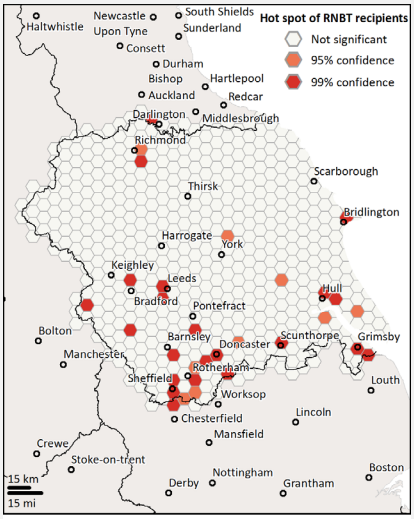

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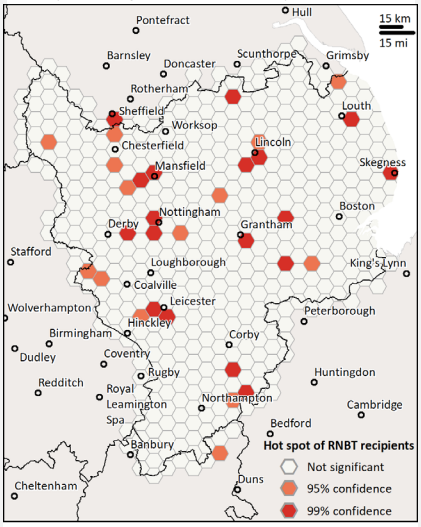

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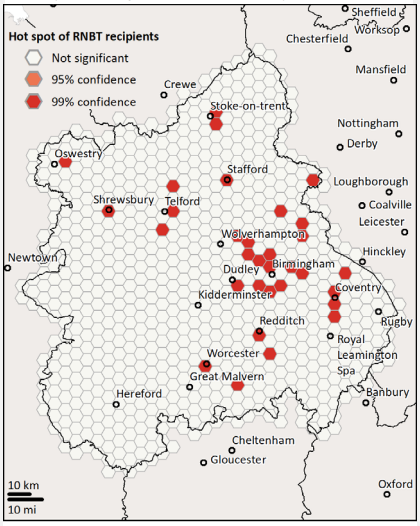

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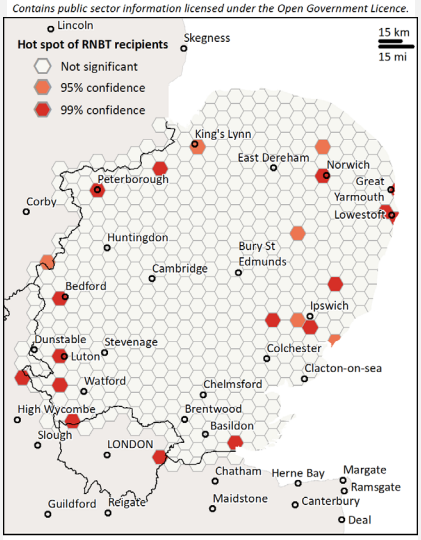

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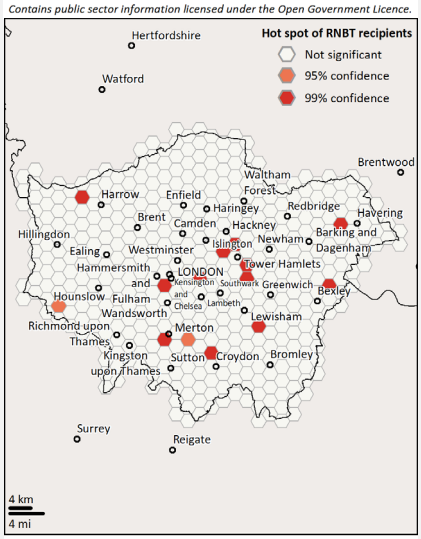

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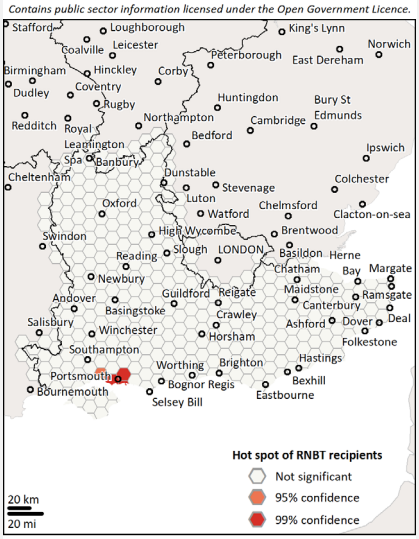

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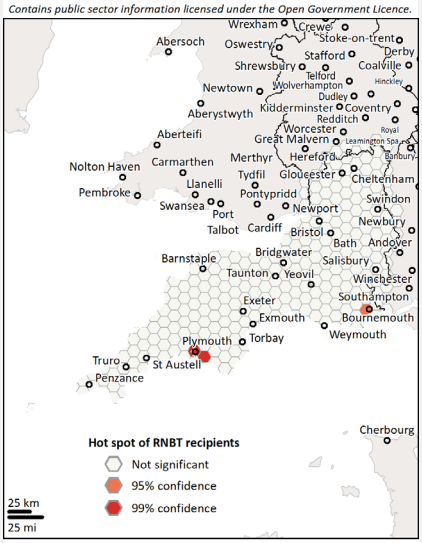

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