

CENSUS 2021 – UK Armed Forces & Veterans Briefing

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Introduction

On Wednesday 10th November 2022, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its second phase outputs from the 2021 Census, which provides statistics on UK armed forces for all local authority areas in England & Wales. One of the main goals of the census is to better understand the needs and characteristics of the veteran population in the UK. This information can be used to improve services and support for veterans, including access to healthcare, housing, and employment opportunities.

The 2021 Census estimates that 3,917 people in Barnet (1.3% of usual residents in Barnet aged 16 years and over) reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces. Of the UK armed forces veterans in Barnet, 2,569 people previously served in the regular UK armed forces, 1,197 people served in the reserve armed forces, and 151 people served in both the regular and reserve forces.

This equates to 3,716 households in Barnet reporting that they had previously served in UK armed forces. Of those, 3,616 households had one person having previously served, 92 households had 2 people having previously served and 8 households had 3 or more people having served in UK armed forces.

The key summary points are:

- As per Census 2021, 1,853,112 people (3.8% of usual residents aged 16 years and over) in England and Wales reported that they had previously served in the UK armed forces compared to 745,765 (2% of working age population in England and Wales) in Census 2011.
- Of the UK armed forces veterans in England and Wales, 76.3% (1.4 million people) previously served in the regular forces compared to 65.6% (2569) in Barnet, 19.5% (361,000 people) in the reserve forces compared to 30.6% (1,197) in Barnet, and 4.3% (79,000 people) served in both the regular and reserve forces compared to 3.8% (151) in Barnet.
- 37,000 UK armed forces veterans (2.0%) lived in communal establishments in England and Wales compared to 95 (2.4%) in Barnet and the remainder (slightly over 1.8 million, 98.0%) lived in households compared to 3,822 (97.6%) in Barnet.

- There were 1.7 million households (7.0% of all households) with one or more persons who had served in the UK armed forces compared to 3,716 households (2.5% of all households) in Barnet.

Note: People aged 16 years and over were asked whether they had previously served in the regular or reserve UK armed forces, or both. People currently serving in the UK armed forces and those who had never served were both advised to tick "no".

Population who had previously served in the UK armed forces

People who have previously served in the regular or reserve UK armed forces are often known as the veteran population and form part of the armed forces community (along with those who currently serve in the armed forces, Merchant Navy and their families). In the 2021 census, 2,569 people (0.7% of Barnet's population aged 16 and over or 65.6% of Barnet's veterans population) had previously served in the UK armed forces while 1,197 people (0.3% of Barnet's population aged 16 and over or 30.6% of Barnet's veterans population) had served only in the reserve armed forces. The remaining 151 (0.04% of Barnet's population aged 16 and over or 3.9% of Barnet's veterans population) had served in both the regular and the reserve armed forces.

Table 1: Census 2021 - Percentage of the veterans' population aged 16 years and over who had previously served in the UK armed forces for Barnet and London

Census 2021 - Previously served in the UK armed forces					Percentage point difference (Barnet vs London)
UK armed forces veteran indicator	Barnet 2021		London 2021		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Previously served in UK armed forces	2,569	65.6%	65,066	64.6%	1.0%
Previously served in UK reserve armed forces	1,197	30.6%	31,900	31.7%	-1.1%
Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	151	3.9%	3,751	3.7%	0.1%
Total	3,917		100,717		

As per the Table 1, the total percentage of the population aged 16 and over who have previously served in the UK armed forces, reserve forces or both is very similar when compared between Barnet and London. However, Barnet slightly lags behind London with the point percentage difference when it comes to reserve armed forces count.

Within Barnet, 'High Barnet & Hadley' have the greatest number of people (189) having served previously in UK armed forces followed by 'Burnt Oak and Watling Park' (156). Chart 2 shows the top 10 MSOAs with maximum number of people having served in armed forces.

Chart 1: Census 2021 - Percentage of people aged 16 and over who have previously served in UK armed forces for London and Barnet.

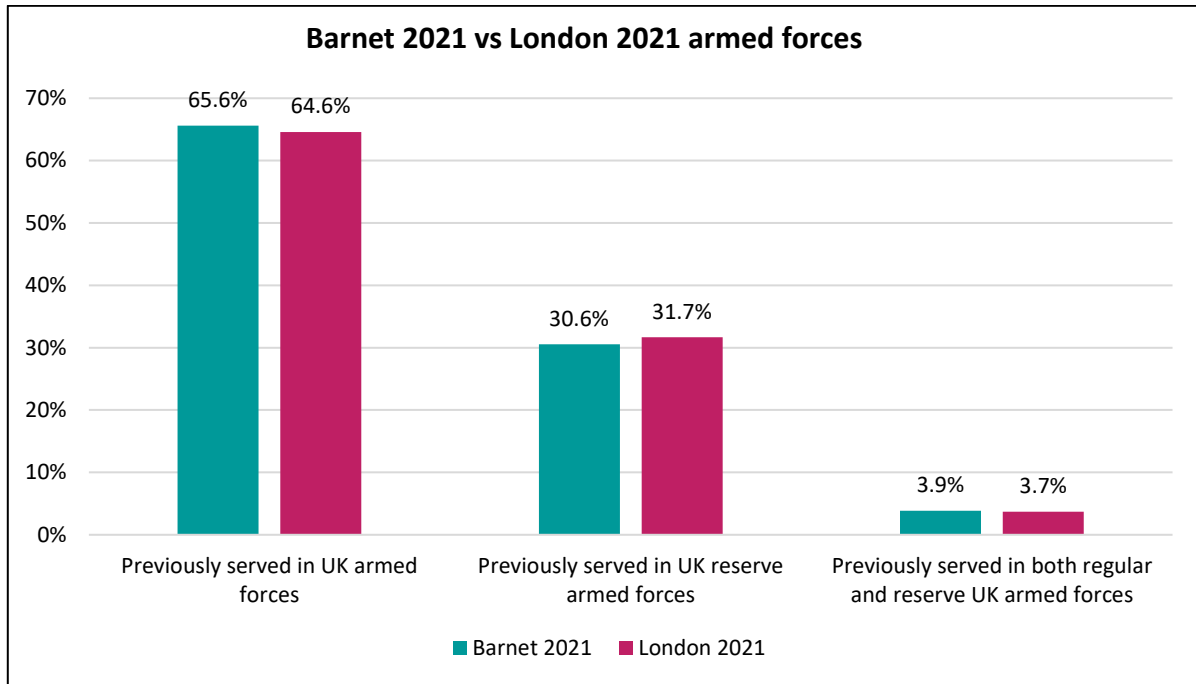
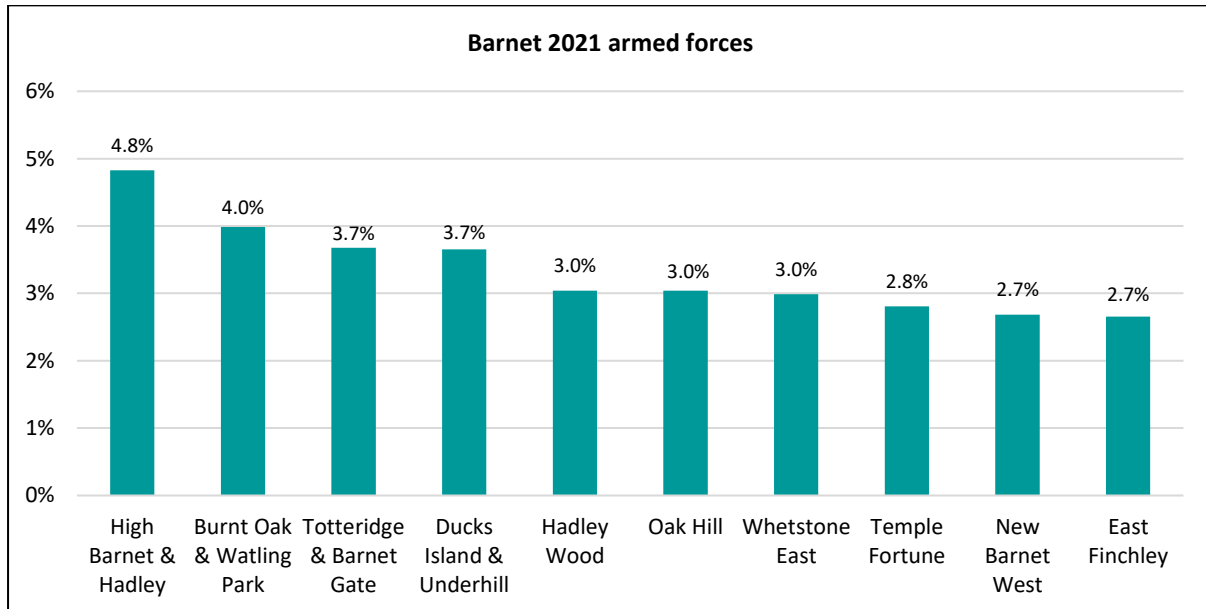


Chart 2: Census 2021 - Percentage of people aged 16 and over who have previously served in UK armed forces within Barnet MSOAs (Top 10).



People in household who have previously served in UK armed forces

In 2021 census, 3,716 households in Barnet had at least one person who had previously served in the UK armed forces (2.5% of all households in Barnet) compared to 95,609 households in London (2.8% of all households in London) who had at least one person who had previously served in the UK armed forces.

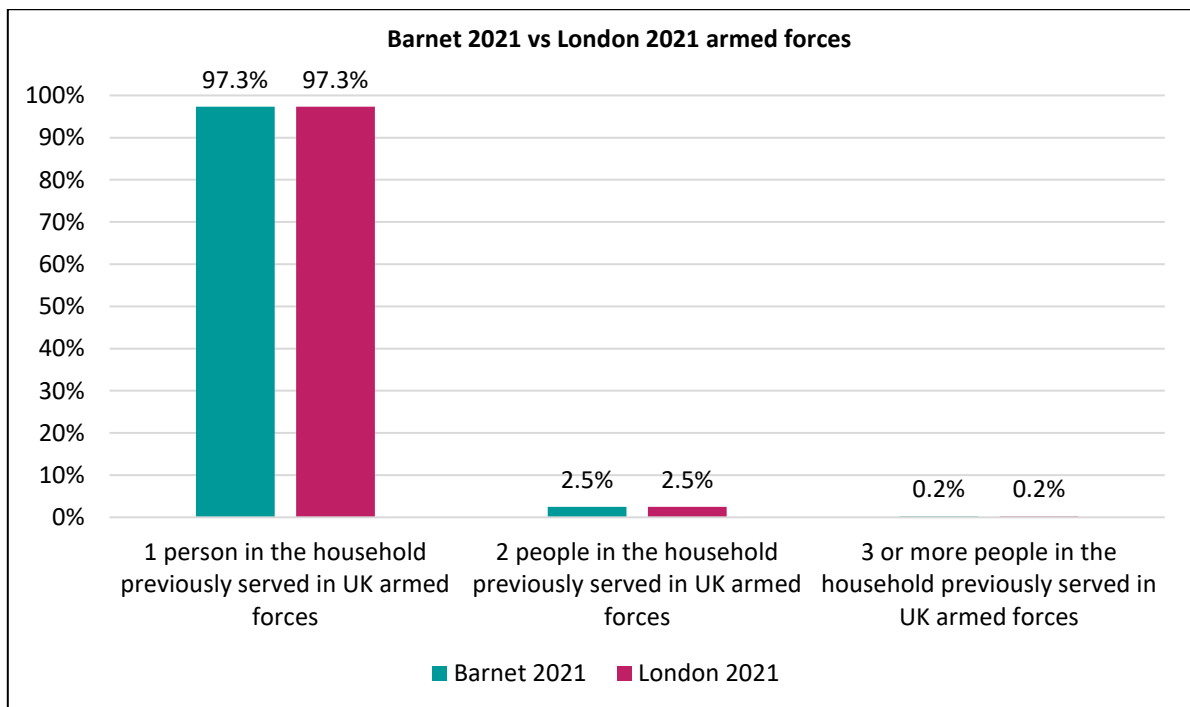
Of these households in Barnet, 3,616 (97.3%) included only one veteran, 92 (2.5%) included two veterans, and the remaining 8 (0.2%) included three or more veterans. This compared to London, where 93,059 households (97.3%) included only one veteran, 2,370 (2.5%) included two veterans, and the remaining 180 (0.2%) included three or more veterans.

Table 2: Census 2021 - Number of people in household who have previously served in UK armed forces

Census 2021 - Number of people in household who have previously served in UK armed forces					Percentage point difference (Barnet vs London)
UK armed forces veteran indicator	Barnet 2021		London 2021		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1 person in the household previously served in UK armed forces	3,616	97.3%	93,059	97.3%	-0.02%
2 people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	92	2.5%	2,370	2.5%	0.00%
3 or more people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	8	0.2%	180	0.2%	0.03%
Total	3,716		95,609		

As per Table 2, the total percentage of households who have previously served in the UK armed forces is very similar when compared between Barnet and London. However, Barnet slightly lags behind London with the point percentage difference when it comes to households with 1 or more people previously having served in the armed forces.

Chart 3: Census 2021 – Percentage of households who have previously served in the UK armed forces for London and Barnet.



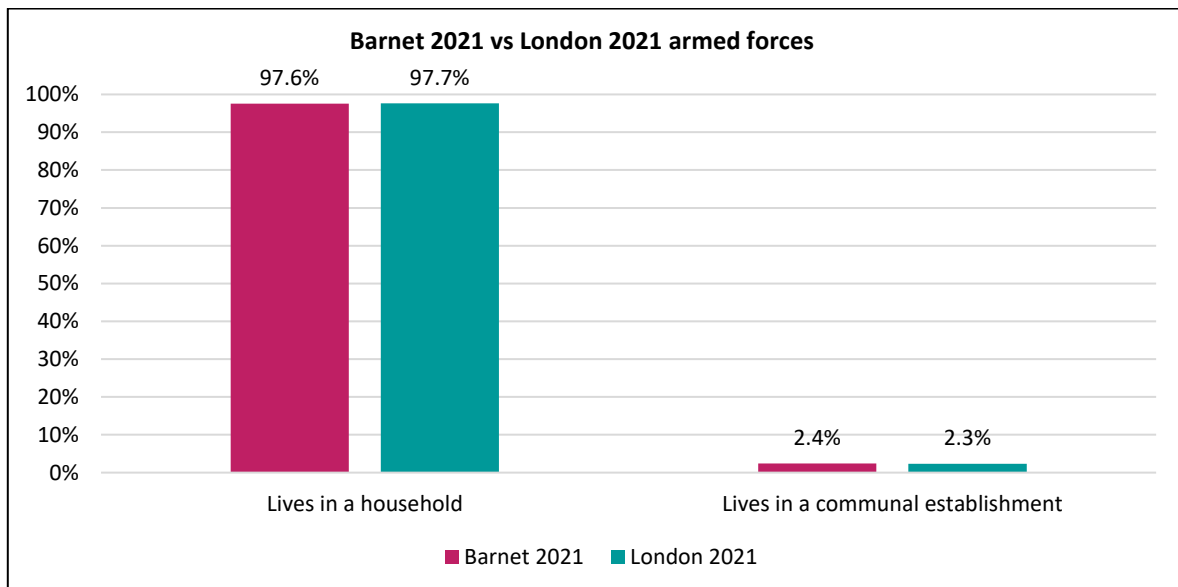
Population previously having served in UK armed forces resident in communal establishments and in households

In 2021 census, 97.6% (3,822) of the UK armed forces veteran population in Barnet lived in households and 2.4% (95) lived in communal establishments compared to 97.7% (98,367) in London who lived in households and 2.3% (2,350) in London who lived in communal establishments.

Table 3: Census 2021 - Population who have previously served in UK armed forces in communal establishments and in households

Census 2021 - Population who have previously served in UK armed forces in communal establishments and in households					Percentage point difference (Barnet vs London)
UK armed forces veteran indicator	Barnet 2021		London 2021		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Lives in a household	3,822	97.6%	98,367	97.7%	-0.1%
Lives in a communal establishment	95	2.4%	2,350	2.3%	0.1%
	3,917		100,717		

Chart 4: Census 2021 - Percentage of population who have previously served in UK armed forces resident in communal establishments and households for London and Barnet.



Household Reference Person indicator of previous service in UK armed forces

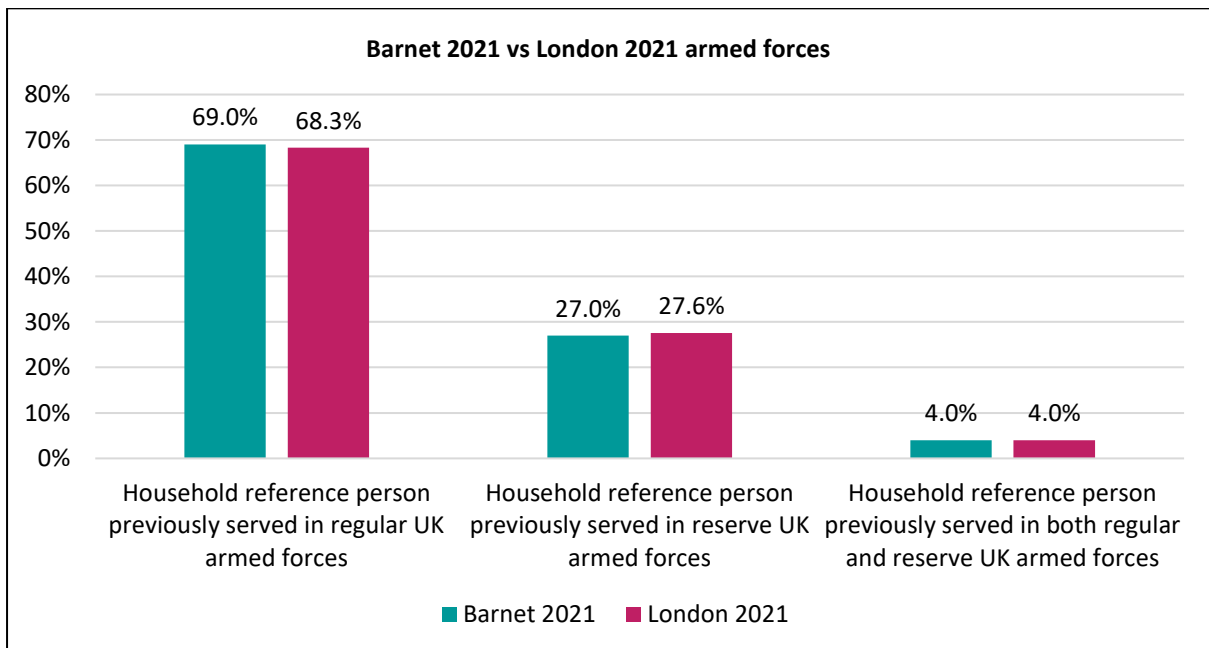
In 2021 census, 69.0% (1,937) of the UK armed forces veteran population who identifies as a Household reference person in Barnet served in the regular armed forces, 27.0% (758) served in the reserve armed forces and 3.9% (111) served in both the regular and reserve armed forces. This is compared to the London average where 61.6% (49,135) served in the regular armed forces, 27.6%

(19,865) served in the reserve armed forces and 4.0% (2,894) served in both the regular and reserve armed forces.

Table 4: Census 2021 - Household Reference Person indicator of previous service in UK armed forces

Census 2021 - Household Reference Person indicator of previous service in UK armed forces					Percentage point difference (Barnet vs London)
UK armed forces veteran indicator	Barnet 2021		London 2021		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Household reference person previously served in regular UK armed forces	1,937	69.0%	49,135	68.3%	0.7%
Household reference person previously served in reserve UK armed forces	758	27.0%	19,865	27.6%	-0.6%
Household reference person previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	111	4.0%	2,894	4.0%	-0.1%
	2,806		71,894		

Chart 5: Census 2021 – Percentage of household reference persons who have previously served in armed forces for London and Barnet.



Source

Office for National Statistics (ONS), released 10 November 2022, ONS website, statistical bulletin, [UK armed forces veterans, England and Wales: Census 2021](#)

Appendix

Table 5: Census 2021 - Percentage of the population aged 16 years and over who had previously served in the UK armed forces for England, Wales and regions of England

Area name	Previously served in regular UK armed forces		Previously served in reserve UK armed forces		Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
England	1,325,353	2.9%	338,520	0.7%	73,908	0.2%
North East	80,185	3.7%	24,198	1.1%	4,978	0.2%
North West	169,700	2.8%	49,494	0.8%	9,545	0.2%
Yorkshire and The Humber	142,894	3.2%	34,409	0.8%	7,822	0.2%
East Midlands	134,189	3.4%	29,103	0.7%	7,237	0.2%
West Midlands	126,147	2.6%	34,115	0.7%	7,337	0.2%
East of England	149,280	2.9%	36,470	0.7%	8,132	0.2%
London	65,066	0.9%	31,900	0.4%	3,751	0.1%
South East	245,235	3.2%	58,250	0.8%	13,597	0.2%
South West	212,657	4.5%	40,584	0.9%	11,509	0.2%
Wales	87,943	3.4%	22,250	0.9%	5,138	0.2%

Chart 5: Census 2021 - Percentage of the population aged 16 years and over who had previously served in the UK armed forces for England, Wales and regions of England (Source: ONS, 2021)

