Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership

Census 2021 includes a question re Veterans:

What you need to know to complete it

Why is there a question about veterans in the Census?

This is the first time there has been a question about UK Armed Forces veterans in the Census. This comes about because of campaigning to include one by the Royal British Legion, veteran charities and a range of public organisations and partnerships.

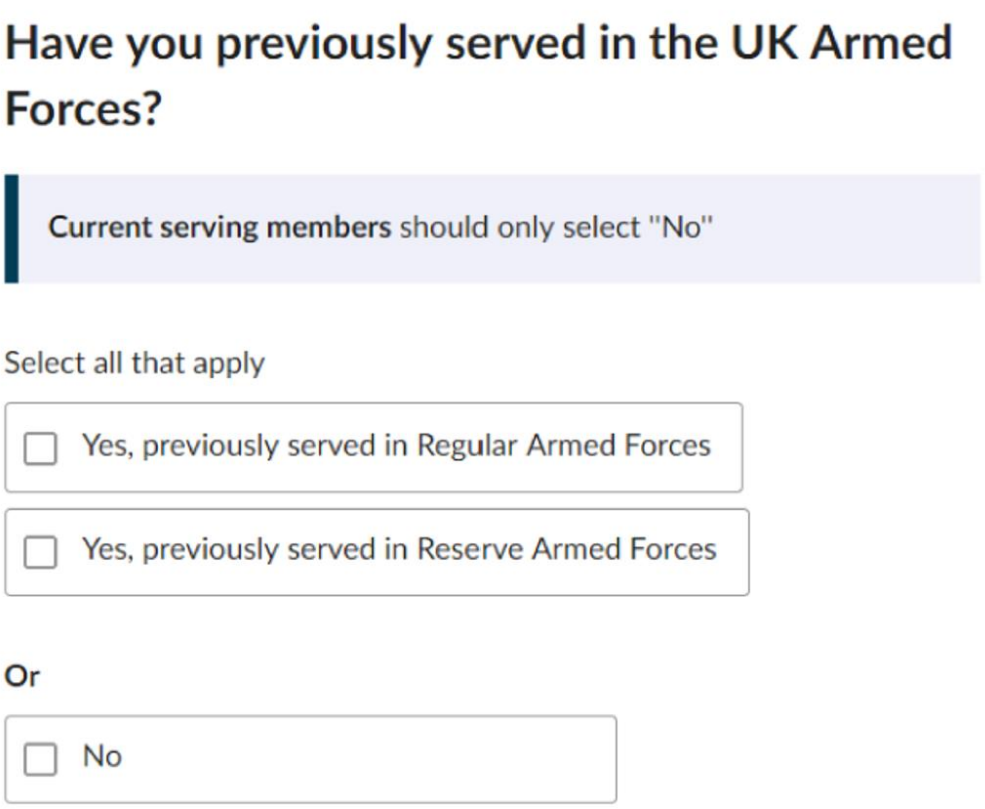
This is because we do not know the true number of UK Armed Forces veterans we have in the community, where they are and what their needs are. This has resulted in them being poorly represented regarding funding and service provision. The Census will help address this.

What's a veteran?

"Veterans are defined as anyone who has ***served for at least one day*** in Her Majesty's Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve) or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally defined military operations."

This means that those who only partially completed training, anyone who did National Service in the Armed Forces and all those who have served in the Reserves, not just the Regulars, are veterans. There are lots of people who are veterans, but do not recognise that they are. If you've ever been issued with a military or Service Identification Number then you **ARE** a veteran!

What is the question?



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 served in NI and was told to 'keep it quiet' that I served; should I tick the box?

It is understandable that veterans who served in and around the NI conflict of the 1970's-1990's and were told not to reveal their identity as serving personnel or wear uniform in public continue to this day to 'keep it quiet'.

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 veterans, in common with other members of society, are suspicious about revealing personal data to the 'authorities', in this case the Office for National Statistics (ONS). ONS is, however, an independent body and separate from Government.

All data is anonymised for analysis. The individual personal data you provide is 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/

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