



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI 2015/09223

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18 November 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information – Final Response

Thank you for your inquiry dated 20 October 2015 requesting the following information:

- “1) Is sleepwalking a bar to entry into the Royal Navy, and if so what is the relevant policy?”*
- 2) Are all sleep-related disorders a bar to entry into the Royal Navy, and if so what is the relevant policy?”*
- 3) Of personnel referred to NSMBOS where sleepwalking is a factor, how many have been retained/discharged and in what medical category (MND/MLD/MFD), preferably both by year and by whether it was primary/sole/secondary factor?”*
- 4) Of personnel referred to NSMBOS where a sleep-related disorder is a factor, how many have been retained/discharged and in what medical category (MND/MLD/MFD), preferably both by year and by whether it was primary/sole/secondary factor?”*
- 5) How many incidents have been recorded where sleepwalking has been a primary or contributory factor, and which have resulted in injury/death/close miss or have been deemed detrimental to operational effectiveness?”*
- 6) How many incidents have been recorded where a sleep-related disorder has been a primary or contributory factor, which have resulted in injury/death/close miss or have been deemed detrimental to operational effectiveness?”*

Your inquiry is being considered as a Freedom of Information request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and the responses to your questions are set out below.

1) *Is sleepwalking a bar to entry into the Royal Navy, and if so what is the relevant policy?*

Sleepwalking is a bar to entry to the Royal Navy. Whilst this is not presently enshrined in MOD policy ie Joint Service Publication 950, (Medical Policy), sleepwalking beyond the age of 13 is seen as a permanent medically disqualification. Policy updates to that effect are currently in the process of being cleared for publication. The principle regarding any condition not specifically covered in Policy is that the opinion of the Senior Medical Officer Service Entry adjudicates, taking advice from specialists as required.

2) *Are all sleep-related disorders a bar to entry into the Royal Navy, and if so what is the relevant policy?*

The permanently disqualifying nature of sleep terrors will similarly be reflected in the pending JSP950 policy update. Obstructive sleep apnoea is permanently disqualifying for entry in accordance with the extant JSP950 6-7-4B.19 policy.

3) *Of personnel referred to NSMBOS where sleepwalking is a factor, how many have been retained/discharged and in what medical category (MND/MLD/MFD), preferably both by year and by whether it was primary/sole/secondary factor?*

Year	Personnel referred to NSMBOS: retained	Personnel referred to NSMBOS: discharged
2000	0	~
2005	0	~
2007	0	~
2009	0	~
2010	0	~
2011	0	~
2012	0	~
2013	0	~
2014	0	5
2015	0	~

Note: Some personnel were discharged at MEB.

The tables in this response have been scrutinised to ensure individual identities have not been revealed inadvertently. In line with Defence Statistics' rounding policy for health statistics (May 2009), and in keeping with the Office for National Statistics Guidelines, all numbers less than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there is only one cell in a row or column that is less than five, the next smallest number (or numbers where there are tied values) has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

All records are primary records of instances of sleep walking or somnambulism.

All personnel were hence classed as MND.

4) Of personnel referred to NSMBOS where a sleep-related disorder is a factor, how many have been retained/discharged and in what medical category (MND/MLD/MFD), preferably both by year and by whether it was primary/sole/secondary factor?

Year	Personnel referred to NSMBOS: retained	MND	MLD	MFD	Personnel referred to NSMBOS: discharged
1998	~	0	0	~	
1999	~	0	0	~	
2004	~	0	~	0	
2005	~	0	~	~	
2007	~	0	~	0	
2008	~	0	~	0	
2009	~	0	~	0	
2010	~	~	~	~	~
2011	5	0	5	0	
2012	~	0	~	0	
2013	7	0	7	0	
2014	~	0	~	0	
2015	~	0	~	0	

All records are primary records of instances of sleep apnoea.

5) How many incidents have been recorded where sleepwalking has been a primary or contributory factor, and which have resulted in injury/death/close miss or have been deemed detrimental to operational effectiveness?

Navy Command accidents, incidents and near misses, when reported, are captured and stored on a system called Navy Lessons and Incident Management System (NLIMS). A search of NLIMS using the following criteria, "sleep walking", "sleep walk" and "sleep" has been conducted spanning the period from its creation in July 2013 to the present day, Oct 2015. There were no records on the database for any of the criteria searched.

6) How many incidents have been recorded where a sleep-related disorder has been a primary or contributory factor, which have resulted in injury/death/close miss or have been deemed detrimental to operational effectiveness?"

As stated previously no sleep walking, sleep walk or sleep accidents, incidents or near misses are identified on NLIMS. Assessment of whether or not a sleep related disorder is detrimental to operational effectiveness would not be recorded on NLIMS unless it resulted in an accident, incident or near miss. The assessment would be a Chain of Command activity and as such subject to medical in confidence restrictions.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please

note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section