



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: 06/01/79558/FOI2017/10006

E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk



13 November 2017

Dear ,

Thank you for your email of 25 September in which you requested the following information:

Please provide, for each of the last 5 complete years for which records exist:

1. *The number of people recruited into the Army who were under the age of 18 on the day of their recruitment;*
2. *The % of recruits in each year who were under-18s;*
3. *The number of people in the Army who, in each year, are known to have died under any circumstances (for example, this would include training incidents, suicide, enemy fire, or blue-on-blue accidents) who were under-18 on the date of their death (or, if relevant, the incident/injury which led directly to their death).*

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and has been provided below.

In answer to part one and two of your request, the table below shows the number and percentage of regular Army soldiers aged under 18 on the day they joined the Army and the percentage of those joining the Army who were under 18.

Table 1. Number and percentage of people joining the Regular Army under the age of 18.

Year	U18 intake	% U18 intake
Total	12,560	26.1%
2011	2,760	28.5%
2012	2,410	25.2%
2013	1,970	26.6%
2014	1,730	26.4%
2015	1,830	23.4%
2016	1,860	26.4%

Source: Defence Statistics (Army)

Figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Totals and sub-totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts. Unrounded figures are used in the calculation of percentages.

In answer to part three of your request, the table below shows the number of regular Army personnel who were under the age of 18 at the time of their death or the incident leading to their death.

Table 2. Number of Army fatalities under the age of 18.

Year	U18 deaths
Total	4
2012	2
2014	1
2015	1

Source: Defence Statistics (Health)

Of the four deaths in the table above, two were due to disease or natural causes, one was an off duty Road Traffic Accident and one was a coroner confirmed suicide.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that Service personnel under the age of 18 are not deployed on any operation outside of the UK except where the operation does not involve personnel becoming engaged in, or exposed to, hostilities. Further information on intake by age to the Armed Forces and Armed forces fatality statistics are published by Defence Statistics. The most recent figures are available via the web addresses below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-and-uk-civilian-operational-casualty-and-fatality-statistics-financial-year-20172018>

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you still wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat