



Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2017/11355

Ministry of Defence
Abbeywood North
Bristol
BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: 03067 984423

E-mail: Def-Strat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

8 December 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 9 November 2017 requesting the following information:

1. Total number of soldiers currently serving in the UK forces.
2. How many soldiers diagnosed of PTSD between 2015-2017
3. How many soldiers diagnosed PTSD before conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan
4. How many diagnosed PTSD after conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan”

After further correspondence on the 15 November 2017, you refined your request for the following information:

- “1. Number and rate of UK Armed Forces personnel diagnosed with PTSD at MOD Specialist Mental Health services between 2015-2017
2. Number and rate of UK Armed Forces personnel diagnosed with PTSD at MOD Specialist Mental Health services who have previously deployed to Iraq/Afghanistan 2007/ 08 onwards
3. Number and rate of UK Armed Forces personnel diagnosed with PTSD at MOD Specialist Mental Health services who have not previously deployed to Iraq/Afghanistan 2007/08 onwards.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds the information on the subject you have requested.

In 2015/16 **297**, UK Armed Forces personnel had an initial assessment for PTSD at a MOD Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH). This represents **0.18%** of the UK Armed Forces.

In 2016/17 **307**, UK Armed Forces personnel had an initial assessment for PTSD at a MOD DCMH. This represents **0.19%** of the UK Armed Forces.

Table 1 shows the number and percentage of the UK Armed Forces with an initial assessment for PTSD at a MOD DCMH, split by whether or not they had previously deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan prior to their diagnosis.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel with an initial assessment at a MOD DCMH for PTSD, by previous deployment status. Number and percentage of UK Armed Forces

2007/08 – 2016/17

Year	Initial assessment for PTSD at MOD DCMH			
	Previously deployed to Iraq/Afghanistan ¹		Not previously deployed to Iraq/Afghanistan ¹	
	n	%	n	%
2007/08	144	0.14	30	0.03
2008/09	111	0.10	30	0.04
2009/10	161	0.13	27	0.03
2010/11	211	0.17	33	0.04
2011/12	241	0.20	28	0.04
2012/13	272	0.23	58	0.09
2013/14	319	0.28	56	0.09
2014/15	231	0.22	43	0.07
2015/16	245	0.26	52	0.08
2016/17	233	0.27	74	0.10

Source: DS Database and DMICP

1. Deployment to wider theatre of operation (see section 16 (advice and assistance), Deployment)

2. Data for Afghanistan between 1 January 2003 and 14 October 2005 were not available for person level deployment (see section 16 (advice and assistance), Deployment)

3. Dotted lines represent 2012/13 revised methodology to include electronic patient record data source (see section 16 (advice and assistance), Methodology)

4. Excludes personnel where Initial assessment was not supplied

Table 1 shows that rates of PTSD were higher in those who had previously deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan than those that had not deployed there.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to note the following:

Mental Health Data

More analysis on mental health in the UK Armed Forces treated at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services can be found in the following Official Statistic publication produced by Defence Statistics Health in June each year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-mental-health-statistics-index>

UK Armed Forces personnel have access to Specialist Mental Health Services, by referrals made by their GP, provided through MOD DCMH or MOD In-patient providers. DCMH are specialised psychiatric services based on community mental health teams closely located with primary care services at MOD sites in the UK and abroad. All UK based and aero-medically evacuated Service personnel based overseas requiring in-patient admission are treated by one of eight NHS trusts in the UK which are part of a consortium headed by the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation trust (SSSFT). UK based Service personnel from British Forces Germany (BFG) were treated at Guys and St Thomas Hospital in the UK up until April 2013 and from this date, at Gilead IV hospital, Bielefeld, under a contract with Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Family Association (SSAFA) through the Limited Liability Partnership.

The data in this report include regular UK Armed Forces personnel, Ghurkhas, Military Provost Guard Staff, mobilised reservists, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and Non-regular Permanent Staff as all of these individuals are eligible for assessment at a DCMH.

Deployment

The deployment data presented in this report represents deployments to a theatre of operation and not a specific country. Here Iraq is defined as anyone who deployed on Operation TELIC before their episode of care. Afghanistan is anyone who deployed on Operation HERRICK or Operation VERITAS before their episode of care.

Operation TELIC is the name for UK operations in Iraq which started in March 2003 and finished on 21 May 2011. UK Forces were deployed to Iraq to support the Government's objective to remove the threat that Saddam posed to his neighbours and his people and, based on the evidence available at the time, disarm him of his weapons of mass destruction. The Government also undertook to support the Iraqi people in their desire for peace, prosperity, freedom and good government. Op TELIC includes deployment to Iraq and other countries in the Gulf region such as Kuwait and Oman.

Operation HERRICK is the name for UK operations in Afghanistan which started in April 2006. UK Forces are deployed to Afghanistan in support of the UN authorised, NATO led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission and as part of the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Operation VERITAS is the name for UK operations in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2005.

Person level deployment data for Afghanistan was not available between 1 January 2003 and 14 October 2005. Therefore, it is possible that some UK Armed Forces personnel who were deployed to Afghanistan during this period and subsequently attended a DCMH have not been identified as having deployed to Afghanistan in this report.

Methodology

Since 2012/13, the report captures all new episodes of care recorded in the MOD patient electronic record in addition to monthly submissions provided by DCMH to Defence Statistics.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering mental health in the UK Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

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, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely
Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)