



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-
FOI@mod.uk

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 21 February 2018 requesting the following information:

“number of Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force service personnel who are currently unable to deploy....I will reference a previous Freedom Of Information(FOI) request (Reference code FOI2015/05398). That previous request provided a full detailed table of service personnel who are Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) and Medically Non-Deployable (MND)”

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

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.

Table 1 presents the number of UK Armed Forces personnel¹ in service as at 1 January 2018 and those who were medically downgraded as either Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) or Medically Not Deployable (MND).

Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel¹ by Medical Deployment Standard and Service, numbers¹ 1 January 2018

Service	In Service	Medical Deployability Standard		
		All medically downgraded	MLD	MND
All	137,263	27,071	13,967	13,104
Naval Service ²	29,264	4,788	2,071	2,717
Army	77,467	17,054	9,972	7,082
RAF	30,532	5,229	1,924	3,305

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Full time trained (Naval Service and RAF)/trade trained (Army) and serving against requirement.

² Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to note:

Service personnel with medical conditions or fitness issues which affect their ability to perform their duties are assessed in Primary Care or referred to a Medical Board for a medical examination and review of their medical grading. The patient may be downgraded to allow for treatment and rehabilitation.

¹ Full time trained (Naval Services and RAF)/trade trained (Army) and serving against requirement. This includes Regulars, Gurkhas and Full Time Reserve Service.

Medically downgraded personnel are those personnel who have been assessed by a Medical Board or in primary care and subsequently awarded a Medical Deployability Standard (MDS) of either MLD or MND. The MDS awarded can be on a temporary or permanent basis. The definitions of MDS categories are as follows:

Medically Fully Deployable (MFD): Personnel medically fit for duty with no employment limitations.

Medically Limited Deployable (MLD): Personnel medically fit for duty with minor employment limitations. MLD personnel may have a medical condition or functional limitation that prevents the meeting of all Medically Fully Deployable (MFD) requirements.

Medically Not Deployable (MND): Personnel medically fit for duty with major employment limitations. MND personnel are not fit to deploy on Operations but may be deployable on UK based exercises and should be able to work effectively for at least 32.5 hours per week.

MDS has been compiled using the Defence Statistics "derived" field which utilises a combination of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) and Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) MDS.

Joint Personnel Administration is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK Armed Forces personnel and is used to gather information on a person's service and MDS.

DMICP is a centralised data warehouse. It is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. DMICP was rolled out in 2007 and legacy medical data for currently serving personnel was migrated across during rollout.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering medical discharges 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.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, 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health Head (B1)