

Ministry of Defence
Main Building (06/N)
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI2017/05668

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

29 June 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 31 May in which you requested the following information:

“This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Please provide me with the following information: 1) The number of allegations of sexual abuse within the Army Cadets made to the Ministry of Defence in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and so far in 2017. Of these, please give the number referred to police. 2) The number of staff or volunteers dismissed from the Army Cadets following allegations and/or an investigation of sexual abuse in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and so far in 2017. 3) The number of allegations of sexual abuse within the Air Cadets made to the Ministry of Defence in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and so far in 2017. Of these, please give the number referred to police. 4) The number of staff or volunteers dismissed from the Air Cadets following allegations and/or an investigation of sexual abuse in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and so far in 2017”.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed, and I can confirm that the Department holds information in scope of your request.

Child sexual abuse is an abhorrent crime, and the MOD has robust procedures in place to protect cadets. This includes all adults who work with children undergoing mandatory security and background checks, rigorous disclosure procedures and regular safeguarding training. We encourage anyone who has been a victim, or knows someone who has, to report it to the police.

The information for the Army Cadet Force and the Royal Air Force Air Cadets is presented separately in the tables below.

ARMY CADETS

Year	Allegations of sexual abuse made to the MOD (Staff and Cadets) (1)	Allegations referred to Police (2)	Staff/volunteers dismissed following allegations and/or an investigation of sexual abuse (3)
2012	25	22	7
2013	34	24	12
2014	49	40	17
2015	34	27	10
2016	40	31	15
2017 (up to 15/06/17)	19	14	1

Notes

(1) The information is provided by the year the allegation was made and not the year in which the alleged incident occurred and includes all allegations made, including those that were later found, following investigation by either the Police or the Cadet Force, as being unfounded.

(2) Allegations are reported to the appropriate authority. In accordance with your request, the figures provided here only include cases where we know a referral was made to the Police, either directly or by another agency such as social services or Multi-Agency Support Hubs (MASH).

(3) These numbers do not include Cadet Forces Adult Volunteers or staff who had left the Army Cadets before dismissal could take place. However, disclosure referrals will still be made against these individuals if appropriate. Cadets are not included in this data.

ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS (RAFAC)

Year	Allegations of sexual abuse made to the MOD (Staff and Cadets) (1)	Allegations referred to Police/Local Authority Designated Officer (2)	Staff/volunteers dismissed following allegations and/or an investigation of sexual abuse (3)
2012	20	15	3
2013	21	16	2
2014	16	12	2
2015	34	23	1
2016	34	24	1
2017 (up to 06/06/17)	9	6	0

Notes

- (1) The information provided is by the year the allegation was made and not the year in which the alleged incident occurred and includes all allegations made, including those that were later found, following investigation by either the Police or the Cadet Force, as being unfounded. The figures comprise allegations of sexual abuse committed by: staff/adult volunteers; cadets; and, in some cases, by individuals who are not members of the RAFAC but where allegations relate to a member of the RAFAC).
- (2) In cases where the authorities are notified, this means the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) has either referred the case to the Civilian Police or to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). A number of staff/volunteers were accused of sexual abuse external to the RAFAC where the Police/LADO were informed before the RAFAC were notified.
- (3) The number of staff/volunteers who were terminated from the RAFAC does not include Cadet Forces Adult Volunteers or staff who had left the RAFAC before dismissal could take place. However, disclosure referrals will still be made against these individuals if appropriate. Cadets are not included in this data. A number of staff/volunteers were also terminated following allegations of sexual abuse where the Police/LADO were informed before the RAFAC were notified.

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.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,

Defence People Secretariat