



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our Reference: FOI2016/05776

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1 July 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 4 June in which you requested the following information:

I would like to request under the Freedom of Information Act some information relating to reporting of sexual assaults in the defence force. Specifically:

The number of reported assaults from January 2012 – now

Whether complaint was made by a female or a male

A break down of whether the complaint was made in the army, navy or air force

Information regarding the process of making a sexual assault complaint for someone in the force to authorities

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000. I can confirm that the MOD does hold some information within the scope of your request. The Department has taken the term “sexual assault” to mean offences contrary to Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Under Section 21 of the FOI Act the MOD is not obliged to supply information that is reasonably accessible to the applicant, by other means. With regard to “the process of making a sexual assault complaint”, information regarding the reporting of a crime is available to all serving personnel through Joint Service Publication 839 – Victims’ Services. Personnel are made aware of this information during the induction process. The publication can be viewed here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/488634/20151116-JSP839.pdf

Information regarding the number of sexual assaults from 2010 to 2015 has previously been released under FOI2016/00028 and can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-8-february-2016>

Information for 1 January 2016 until 4 June 2016 is as follows.

Please note - In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, the figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10, where “-“ denotes zero, “~” denotes a number less than or equal to five. When rounding up to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Reported Assaults by Gender and Service


1 January - 4 June 2016		Male	Female
Royal Navy		~	10
Army		~	20
Royal Air Force		-	~

I hope that this information will be helpful to you.

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, 2nd Floor, Zone N, 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