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Thank you for your email of 5 July 2016 requesting the following information:

"the number of UK Armed Forces personnel who were assessed by the MOD Department for Community Mental Health (DCMH) or admitted to an MOD In-patient provider for an initial assessment of PTSD or an Eating Disorder between 1 January 2010 to 31 March 2016 (latest date for which information is available)."

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

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested. The information you requested is enclosed.

Between 1 January 2010 and 31 March 2016 (latest date for which information is available),

- 1,813 UK Armed Forces personnel had an initial assessment for PTSD at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services,
- 21 UK Armed Forces personnel had an initial assessment for Eating disorders at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services.

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

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, Bielefield, under a contract with Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Family Association (SSAFA) through the Limited Liability Partnership.

This response only captures the patients that were referred to a MOD DCMH or admitted to a MOD Inpatient provider and does not represent the totality of mental health problems in the Armed Forces as some patients can be treated wholly within the primary care setting by their GP or medical officer.

DCMH staff record the initial mental health assessment during a patient's first appointment, based on presenting complaints. The information is provisional and final diagnoses may differ as some patients do not present the full range of symptoms, signs or clinical history during their first appointment. The mental

health assessment of condition data were categorised according to the World Health Organisation's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health-Related Disorders 10th edition (ICD-10).

Defence Statistics receive data from DCMH and in-patient providers for all UK Armed Forces personnel from the following sources : DCMH

- Between 01 January 2007 and 30 June 2014, data was provided by DCMHs to Defence Statistics in monthly returns.
- For the period 01 April 2012 to 30 June 2014, new episodes of care data was also sourced from the electronic patient record held in Defence Medical Information Capability Program (DMICP) in addition to those provided by DCMH in monthly returns.
- Since 01 July 2014, DMICP was the single source of DCMH new episodes of care data.

## In-patient

Since January 2007, SSSFT and Gilead IV hospital Bilefield have submitted relevant in patient records.

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.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, 2nd 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, <a href="https://ico.org.uk">https://ico.org.uk</a>.

Yours sincerely