



Ministry of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

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, Bielefeld, 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 In-patient 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

