



Ministry of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2015 requesting the following information:

"1. Would you be able to let others know the number of females in the military who have been diagnosed with a mental health problem between 2007 and 2014 including 2014 please.

2. We have found the total for the injuries/illnesses awarded under the AFCS tariff for Mental Disorders for April 2005- September 2014 in table 3.3a in this:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382568/20141030 - AFCS Publication Sep 14- U.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382568/20141030_-_AFCS_Publication_Sep_14-_U.pdf)

Would you be able provide a breakdown of this figure by year though please?

Finally for clarification:

We read your FOI reply to the question "I want to know how many armed forces have been diagnosed with mental illness since the start of 2011. I would like the figures broken down year by year and by different forces - Army, RAF, Royal Navy etc." from 18th December 2014.

The reason we would like clarification is because our own addition of figures from your reports are different from those you provide in the FOI. For example, you give the figure of 5,076 as the total of 'UK Forces personnel new episode of care at a MOD DCMH or admission to MOD In-patient provider with a mental health disorder, by Service and year, 2011-2014' for the calendar year 2013. However, in looking at the sum of each quarterly report found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-mental-health-statistics-index> we have found the total is 5,255 (1,248 + 1,367 + 1,316 + 1,324).

Would you be able to tell me why there appears to be a small discrepancy in the figures? And do you have the figure for 2014 now even approximate?"

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 within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) and section 44 (Prohibitions on Disclosure) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This is also in line with Defence Statistics rounding policy, in which numbers fewer than five are suppressed in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Section 44(1)(a) has been applied as the disclosure of some of the information is prohibited by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Defence Statistics release quarterly updates on mental health in the UK Armed Forces as an Official Statistic publication. In accordance with the Code of Practice for the release of National and Official Statistics, as set out in the 2007 Act, we are unable to provide the data for the whole of 2014 prior to the next statistical release, 2nd April 2014. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Between 01 January 2007 and 30 September 2014 (latest data available) **4,726** Female UK Armed Forces personnel had a new episode of care for a mental health disorder at a MOD DCMH or in-patient provider.

Table 1 presents the information broken down by year. Patients are counted once in each year in which they had at least one episode of mental disorder, but a patient can appear in more than one year. As such, the sum of the years will not sum the total amount of female UK Armed Forces personnel assessed with a mental disorder.

Table 1: Female UK Armed Forces personnel who had a new episode of care for a mental disorder at a MOD DCMH or in-patient provider between 01 January 2007 – 30 September 2014, by year. Number.

Year	Number with Mental Health Problems
All	4,726
2007	706
2008	649
2009	691
2010	783
2011	753
2012	970
2013	701
2014 ^a	718

Source: DS Mental Health Database, DMICP, SSSFT, BFG

a. Data up to 30 September 2014 (latest data available)

Table 2 provides the number of Service personnel awarded a lump sum payment under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) for a mental disorder, by financial year as at 30 September 2014 (the latest data available).

Table 2: Mental Disorders awarded under the AFCS at tariff levels 1-15, by financial year as at 30 September 2014¹, numbers,²

Financial Year											
	All Years ³	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Number of awards	1,605	~	10	65	95	120	190	195	255	460	210

Source: Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS)

¹ Figures for 2014/15 include lump sum awards between 1 April 2014 and 30 September 2014.

² Figures include injury claims and further additional claims.

³ The AFCS scheme began on 6 April 2005

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

The numbers presented in the Mental Health quarterly reports do not match those presented in the FOI2014/07998 because the quarterly reports present the numbers of individual episodes of care, whereas FOI2014/07998 presents the number of people. A person can have more than one episode of care and therefore this is why the sum of the quarterly reports is greater than the number quoted in FOI2014/07998.

An updated figure for 2014 can be provided:

Between 1 January 2014 and 30 September 2014 (latest data available) **3,681** UK Armed Forces personnel had a new episode of care for a mental health disorder at a MOD DCMH or in-patient provider.

I can advise that statistics on UK Armed Forces mental health, including financial year and service breakdowns since 2007/08, are routinely published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-mental-health-statistics-index>. The next publication is on 2nd April 2015.

Mental health data

Mental health problems are present in both civilian and military populations and result from multi-factorial issues. The Headquarters Surgeon General (HQ SG) and Joint Medical Command (JMC) are striving to minimise the stigma associated with mental illness and foster the appropriate understanding, recognition and presentation for management of these issues in UK Armed Forces personnel. Stigma concerning mental health issues is, however, deeply embedded in both military and civilian populations and it will take time to produce attitudinal cultural change.

Some mental health problems will be resolved through peer support and individual resources; patients presenting to the UK Armed Forces' mental health services will have undergone a process that begins with the individual's identification of a problem and initial presentation to primary care or other agencies such as the padres or Service social workers. A proportion of mental health issues will have been resolved at these levels without the need for further referral. The diagnostic breakdown in this response is based upon initial assessments at DCMH, which may be subject to later amendment.

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.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

The AFCS came into force on 6 April 2005 to pay compensation for injury, illness or death attributable to Service that occurred on or after that date. It replaced the previous compensation arrangements provided by the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) and the attributable elements of the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Pensions Scheme.

A biannual Official Statistic provides summary statistics on claims and awards made under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme, paying compensation for injury, illness or death caused by Service. This is published on the Gov.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>.

Awarded conditions are recorded on the AFCS data in a free-text field containing the tariff of injury table condition groupings. To identify claims awarded for mental disorders, we used the tariff description field to search for 'mental' and a range of common misspellings. Please note that due to the free text nature of this data it is possible that some records with reference to mental health have not been identified, and therefore the figures supplied should be used as an estimate only.

In line with Defence Statistics' Rounding Policy for AFCS data, all figures of five or more have been rounded to the nearest 5 and figures fewer than five have been suppressed and marked ~. Due to rounding, the figures provided may not sum to totals.

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 and AFCS 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/>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health)