



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2017/03917

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[REDACTED]
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24 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 27 March 2017 in which you clarified that you were requesting the following information:

*'Under the FOI Act, could you please provide details of the number of female sailors who have fallen pregnant while serving at sea and those who fell pregnant whilst on deployment to sea on a Royal Navy ship.
If possible I would like the results broken down by year, for the last five years, and the name of the ship on which the sailor was serving.'*

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held. Defence Statistics are unable to determine how many female Royal Navy personnel 'conceived' whilst serving at sea. If women discover they are pregnant on ships at sea, they are returned to shore and the UK at the first convenient opportunity; this may be via an aeromed flight where space is available or alternatively they may be returned on a routine flight. In the case of routine flights being used Defence Statistics will not have sight of the reason for the person's return.

However, under section 16 of the Act (Duty to Provide Advice and Assistance), you may find the attached Annex useful in providing details of the number of female Naval Service personnel who were aeromedically evacuated from a ship due to pregnancy during the five year period 1 Jan 2012 to 31 December 2016.

Please be aware that in accordance with Section 40(2) of the Act –Personal Information, the Defence Rounding Policy has been applied to suppress numbers fewer than five in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities.

Section 40(2) applies to personal data relating to third parties. The release of personal information relating to other individuals would contravene the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998, namely

Principle 1 – personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully and not unless certain specified conditions are met, and Principle 2 – personal data shall be obtained and processed only for specified and lawful purposes and not further processed in a manner incompatible with the purposes.

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, Zone D, 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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

1. Between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016, a minimum of **14** female UK Naval Service personnel were aeromedically evacuated from ships due to pregnancy. **Table 1** presents the number of female UK Naval Service personnel aeromedically evacuated by year. **Table 2** presents the number of female UK Naval Service personnel aeromedically evacuated by ship.

Table 1: Female UK Naval Service personnel aeromedically evacuated from a ship due to pregnancy, by year, between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016, numbers^{1,2}

Year	Personnel Aeromed
All	14
2012	5
2013	~
2014	~
2015	~
2016	~

Source: Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC), Defence Patient Tracking System (DPTS)

1. Includes initial aeromedical evacuations only. Females may be counted more than once if they have had multiple initial aeromedical evacuations for pregnancy during the same time period.

2. Numbers smaller than five have been suppressed, in line with Office for National Statistics guidelines. Suppressed numbers are represented as ~; where there is only one number smaller than five in any row or column the next smallest number has also been suppressed

Table 2: Female UK Naval Service personnel aeromedically evacuated from a ship due to pregnancy, by ship, between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016, numbers^{1,2}

Ship Name	Personnel Aeromed
All	14
HMS DARING	~
HMS DIAMOND	~
HMS DUNCAN	~
HMS EDINBURGH	~
HMS MERSEY	~
HMS MONTROSE	~
HMS RICHMOND	~
HMS ARGYLL	~
HMS DRAGON	~
RFA CARDIGAN BAY	~

Source: Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC), Defence Patient Tracking System (DPTS)

1. Includes initial aeromedical evacuations only. Females may be counted more than once if they have had multiple initial aeromedical evacuations for pregnancy during the same time period.

2. Numbers smaller than five have been suppressed, in line with Office for National Statistics guidelines. Suppressed numbers are represented as ~; where there is only one number smaller than five in any row or column the next smallest number has also been suppressed