



Ministry  
of Defence

Army Secretariat  
Army Headquarters  
IDL 24 Blenheim Building  
Marlborough Lines  
Andover  
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ  
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2017/7844/79305/06/01

E-mail: [ArmySec-Group@mod.uk](mailto:ArmySec-Group@mod.uk)

Website: [www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

XXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

5 September 2017

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX,

Thank you for your email of 2 August in which you requested the following information:

- 1 *“The number of fatalities suffered during live fire exercises on MOD sites in Wales for 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 split by: date, location, circumstance and whether Trained, Untrained or Civilian personnel.*
- 2 *The minimum number of injuries suffered on MOD sites in Wales where live fire takes place for 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 split by: Severity of injury and whether Trained, Untrained or Civilian personnel.”*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held and is set out below:

**1 The number of fatalities suffered during live fire exercises on MOD sites in Wales for 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 split by: date, location, circumstance and whether Trained, Untrained or Civilian personnel.**

From 1 April 2013 to 8 August 2017, two trained Armed Forces personnel have died due to an incident involving live fire on MOD sites in Wales. Both deaths occurred at Castlemartin ranges on 14 June 2017 and remain subject to an ongoing investigation.

**2 The minimum number of injuries suffered on MOD sites in Wales where live fire takes place for 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 split by: Severity of injury and whether Trained, Untrained or Civilian personnel.**

The following tables show the number of injuries sustained on MOD sites in Wales between 2013/14 and 2015/16 by severity and status. You will wish to note that processes for reporting injuries has improved in recent years, and usage of the training areas in the UK has increased since 2015, in line with the drawdown of British Forces previously stationed in Germany and deployed on operations in Afghanistan

Table 1: Number of injuries sustained on MoD sites in Wales between 2013/14 and 2015/16, by severity.

Injuries	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>All Injuries</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>219</b>
Major	8	32	40
Serious	31	68	25
Minor	70	145	154

Definitions:

**Severity** – injury and ill health incidents are categorised by the following levels of severity:

- a. **Major injuries and illnesses** are defined by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as work-related cases which:
  - Could result in death or in hospitalisation (or being confined to a bed, if at sea) for more than 24 hours.
  - Result in a person who was not at work being taken to hospital for treatment
  - A specific type of injury e.g. fracture (except for fingers, thumbs and toes)
  - HSE renamed the category of ‘major’ injuries to ‘specified’ injuries in October 2013, although MOD Health and Safety systems have been capturing incidents under this definition since April 2014, it will not be reported on until April 2016 to allow time for the transition. Therefore the ‘major’ injuries in this report are both those classified as ‘major’ and ‘specified’.
  
- b. **Serious injuries and illnesses** From April 2012 serious injuries equate to the HSE over-seven day category, and are those that are not defined as ‘major’ according to the above criteria but which could result in a person being unable to perform their normal duties for more than seven days. Prior to April 2012 serious injuries were those not defined as ‘major’ but which resulted in a person being unable to perform their normal duties for more than three days.
  
- c. **Minor injuries and illnesses** are those that are not classified as ‘major’ nor ‘serious’.

Table 2: Number of injuries sustained on MoD sites in Wales between 2013/14 and 2015/16, by status (see notes 1 and 2 below).

Injuries	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>All Injuries</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>219</b>
Trained	38	166	98
Untrained	12	23	41
Civilian	56	53	78
Other/Unknown	3	3	2

Notes:

1. These totals may not include all injuries, as some minor injuries may have been treated immediately and not reported..
2. Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training. Untrained strength comprises military personnel who have yet to complete Phase 2 training. See paragraph 29 for further details.
3. Health and Safety data is entirely independent of an individual’s medical record and not automatically linked. Therefore, if an individual reported to their GP having suffered an

injury whilst at work, this would not automatically get recorded on the Health and Safety database unless the individual also reported the incident to their Health and Safety officer.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) of the Act, you may wish to note that the Official Statistic publication 'MOD Health and Safety Statistics Annual Report' is released each year providing the number of reported injury and ill health incidents to UK Armed Forces personnel, Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilian employees and other civilians that were recorded on the MOD's Health and Safety recording systems. This is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-health-and-safety-statistics-index>.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you still wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

XXXXXXXXX  
Army Secretariat