

Proposed revision of the content and layout of the Official Statistic on “MOD Health and Safety Statistics: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time 2011/12 – 2016/17”

SUMMARY

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently publishes an Official Statistic on ‘MOD Health and Safety Statistics: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time’. We are seeking external users’ views on a change to the content of the Official Statistic.

BACKGROUND

The ‘MOD Health and Safety Statistics: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time¹’ provides the number of fatalities, injuries and illnesses as a result of health and safety incidents across the MOD for UK service personnel and civilians.

Defence statistics have reviewed the content of this official statistic and are proposing a number of changes. A summary of the changes are:

- Reducing the size of the main report and moving a number of the detailed breakdowns to the supplementary tables.
- Introducing more detailed information on the causation of workplace accidents, for example, falls from height, slip, trip or fall.
- Introducing new information on the areas of risks identified in the Defence Safety Authority Annual Assurance report, e.g. Aircraft accidents, Training and Exercise.
- The focus will be on the latest financial year and longer time trends will be presented where appropriate.
- Currently there is a separate detailed section for each Service (Naval Service, Army, RAF, Civilians (industrial/non-industrial), and cadet). This will be scaled back and only summary information will be presented on the demographic groups highlighting where differences are identified in those reported to have had a health and safety incident.
- Changing the report to be more aligned with the HSE Publication, Health and Safety at Work, Summary statistics for Great Britain.

Users should also note that as part of this review Defence Statistics have changed the way in which the data is quality assured, this was done for two reasons, 1) to automate the process to reduce the amount of resource spent cleansing the data and 2) to ensure greater consistency in the categorisation of incidents. This change may impact on the trends over time presented within the publication.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE

The reasons for this proposal are:

- a. The current Official Statistic is large in size (60 page report) and repetitive. By adapting the official statistic we aim to focus on the key messages within the main body of the report meeting the majority of user needs and provide more detail in the background tables for people who require them.
- b. Enable easier comparisons with the UK population and other industries for example the numbers produced within the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publication.
- c. Interest in this annual publication is low. The number of web hits for the publication was below 500 in 2016/17. This is lower than the average number of web hits for similar publications with an average number of 850 hits per year. This perhaps suggests that such detailed content is no longer warranted, and a more focused summary could better balance user needs and resourcing.

¹ Trends over the last five years are provided within this bulletin

- d. There will be a reduction in the resource taken to produce the statistics by 0.3 FTE each year. This is due to both a reduction in the content produced, and the improvements to the way the data is quality assured during the production of this Official Statistic. This resource will be used to further support internal stakeholders in identifying issues and trends in the health and safety data.

TIMINGS

This consultation will run for **three weeks**, from 9 January 2018 to 30 January 2018. This consultation complies with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultations.

As long as there is no objection during the consultation period, the proposed changes to the report will proceed as planned and released on the 15 February 2018.

RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

Considering the reasons for the proposed changes, we now invite the feedback of our external data users and are keen to know what impact the proposed changes of this publication will have on you.

Ways to respond

If you have any comments on the proposed changes please send:

By email to: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

By post to:

Defence Statistics (Health)
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West, #6028
Abbey Wood North
Bristol
BS34 8JH

When sending your comments please include contact details (your name and either e mail address, postal address or telephone number) so that we can follow up if clarification is needed.

If there are any issues experienced when using the above email address please forward any comments to: DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk