



Ministry  
of Defence

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**Ministry of Defence**

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Reference: **FOI 2014/02892**

[Redacted]

Date: **24 July 2014**

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 27 June 2014 requesting the following information:

*“The number of UK Armed Forces personnel in Afghanistan who have suffered a major trauma in the form of a genital and/or perineal injury as recorded on the Joint Theatre Trauma Registry (JTTR) between 2003 (commencement of JTTR) and 31 May 2014 (latest available data).*

*It may be feasible to produce the information broken down by year of injury, gender, regiment and rank depending on the numbers involved.”*

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).

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.

Please find below the number of UK Armed Forces personnel with genital/perineal injuries as a result of injuries sustained in Afghanistan as recorded on the Joint Theatre Trauma Registry (JTTR), for the period 1 January 2003 (date JTTR started) to 31 May 2014 (latest available data),

split by year, rank, and gender as requested. We are unable to supply the information broken down by regiment in line with Defence Statistics' rounding policy.

There were **140** surviving UK Armed Forces personnel with a genital/perineal injury specifically recorded in the JTTR. There were no females with genital/perineal injuries as recorded on the JTTR.

**Table 1** below shows the number of genital/perineal injuries by year of injury. **Table 2** provides the number of genital/perineal injuries broken down by rank.

**Table 1: UK Armed Forces Male Surviving<sup>1</sup> Personnel with a Genital/Perineal Injury sustained as a result of Operations in Afghanistan, by Year, 1 January 2003 to 31 May 2014, Number**

Year of Injury	Number Genital/Perineal Injuries
<b>All</b>	<b>140</b>
2003	0
2004	0
2005	0
2006	~
2007	5
2008	11
2009	40
2010	46
2011	24
2012	5
2013	~
2014 <sup>1</sup>	~

Source: JTTR

<sup>1</sup> Surviving personnel are defined as either those undergoing treatment at Camp Bastion Field Hospital or the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) or those being discharged from hospital after receiving treatment for the injuries

<sup>2</sup> Data for 2014 from 1 January 2014 to 31 May 2014

Data presented as “~” has been suppressed in accordance with Defence Statistics rounding policy

**Table 2: UK Armed Forces Male Surviving<sup>1</sup> Personnel with a Genital/Perineal Injury sustained as a result of Operations in Afghanistan, by NATO Rank, 1 January 2003 to 31 May 2014, Number**

NATO Rank	Number Genital/Perineal Injuries
<b>All</b>	<b>140</b>
OF3 to OF9	0
OF-2	~
OF-1	8
OR-9	~
OR-8	~
OR-7	~
OR-6	11
OR-4	17
OR-3	21
OR-2	76

Source: JTTR

<sup>1</sup> Surviving personnel are defined as either those undergoing treatment at Camp Bastion Field Hospital or the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) or those being discharged from hospital after receiving treatment for the injuries. Data presented as “~” has been suppressed in accordance with Defence Statistics rounding policy.

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

The tables in this report have been scrutinised to ensure individual identities have not been revealed inadvertently. In line with Defence Statistics rounding policy (May 2009), in keeping with the Office for National Statistics Guidelines, all numbers fewer than five have been suppressed and presented as ‘~’. Where there is only one number in a row or column that is fewer than five, the next smallest number (or numbers where there are tied values) has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

Data are compiled by Defence Statistics from the Joint Theatre Trauma Register (JTTR), which commenced during 2003 to improve the care of the seriously injured patient from the point of injury to the point of discharge from hospital treatment. A casualty is entered onto the JTTR if the incident triggers activation of the trauma team in a deployed field hospital.

Individuals with a genital injury were identified using relevant codes from the Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) Dictionary 2005 (Military Edition) as identified by Royal Centre for Defence Medicine. The JTTR also includes International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) injury codes, a medical classification list by the World Health Organization (WHO). Individuals with the following ICD10 codes were included; S302, S312, S313, S382. Additionally a text search was also carried out to identify individuals whose injury notes contained the following terms or related words; genital, perineum, penis, scrotum, testicle, urethra, rectum, and prostate.

Operation VERITAS is the name for UK operations in Afghanistan which started in October 2001. The UK was involved in Afghanistan alongside Coalition forces, led by the US under Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), from the first attacks in October 2001.

Operation HERRICK is the name for UK operations in Afghanistan which started in April 2006. UK Forces are deployed to Afghanistan in support of the UN authorised, NATO led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission.

NATO ranks and the associated UK Service Ranks can be found in the UK Armed Forces annual personnel report (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-annual-manning-statistics-index>).

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering operational injuries in the UK Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: [DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.  
Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)