



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
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Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 4 December in which you requested the following information:

*Thanks very much for your response. I note that the figures quoted for 2015 relate to information up to 18 May 2015. Could you please bring this information up to-date by providing data for the months since then?*

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, and I can confirm that information is held by the Ministry of Defence which falls within the scope of your request for the period 18 May 2015 to 30 November 2015, based on cases where the Service Police or the Ministry of Defence Police have jurisdiction and the investigative lead. It does not therefore, include cases which have been dealt with by the civilian police.

Rape, attempted rape, and sexual assault, are abhorrent crimes which have no place in the Armed Forces. We do not tolerate offences of this kind and every reported incident of rape, sexual assault or harassment is thoroughly investigated. It is important to note that there is no evidence to suggest that rates of sexual offending in the Armed Forces are higher than in the broader population. However, we recognise the great courage it takes to come forward and report a sexual offence which is precisely why we have extensive support in place for those affected, including helplines, training programmes and awareness campaigns. In addition, the Army has established a Sexual Offences Prevention Working Group to both reduce incidents of sexual assault and improve support to victims.

The information has been collated by the Service Police Crime Bureau's (SPCB) Crime Statistics Analysis Cell (CSAC) on behalf of the Royal Navy Police, the Royal Military Police and the Royal Air Force Police. The SPCB information has been extracted from a database known as "REDCAP". While REDCAP can be searched in various ways (for example, via crime classification, date of offence or date of birth), problems with the way information has been electronically recorded over many years means that its search tools do not enable it to provide accurate answers to questions of this kind. The CSAC has therefore made a general ("catch all") search of REDCAP using its existing search facilities (based on, amongst other things, crime classifications) followed by manual checks on records to determine (a) whether the information held on REDCAP is accurate; and (b) whether it falls within the scope of the question. The Ministry of Defence Police information has been collated from the MOD Police Crime Recording system UNIFI. Bullying is not a criminal offence in itself and will be behaviour that accompanies another criminal offence, such as assault. The bullying figures have therefore been obtained by searching the REDCAP database for cases where the investigator has assessed, through the information available to them, that the offences

relates to behaviour or acts that could be classed as a form of bullying. The information is presented in the tables below broken down by Service.

## **ROYAL NAVY POLICE**

### **Bullying & Harassment**

Period	Investigations involving Bullying	Investigations involving Harassment
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	10	10

### **Rape / Attempted Rape (SOA03 s.1)**

Period	Rape investigations	Rape referrals
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	~	-

### **Sexual Assault by Penetration (SOA03 s.2)**

Period	SOA03 s.2 Investigations	SOA03 s.2 Referrals
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	~	-

### **Sexual Assault no Penetration (SOA03 s.3)**

Period	SOA03 s.3 Investigations	SOA03 s.3 Referrals
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	~	-

## **ROYAL MILITARY POLICE – BRITISH ARMY**

### **Bullying & Harassment**

Period	Investigations involving Bullying	Investigations involving Harassment
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	30	60

### **Rape / Attempted Rape (SOA03 s.1)**

Period	Rape investigations	Rape referrals
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	~	-

**Sexual Assault by Penetration (SOA03 s.2)**

Period	SOA03 s.2 Investigations	SOA03 s.2 Referrals
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	~	~

**Sexual Assault no Penetration (SOA03 s.3)**

Period	SOA03 s.3 Investigations	SOA03 s.3 Referrals
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	20	10

**ROYAL AIR FORCE POLICE****Bullying & Harassment**

Period	Investigations involving Bullying	Investigations involving Harassment
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	~	20

**Rape / Attempted Rape (SOA03 s.1)**

Period	Rape investigations	Rape referrals
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	~	-

**Sexual Assault by Penetration (SOA03 s.2)**

Period	SOA03 s.2 investigations	SOA03 s.2 referrals
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	~	-

**Sexual Assault No Penetration (SOA03 s.3)**

Period	SOA03 s.3 investigations	SOA03 s.3 referrals
18 May 15 - 30 Nov 15	~	-

It should be noted that totals are rounded in accordance with Defence Statistics rounding policy; therefore totals may not equal the sum of their parts. All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid bias. All numbers less than five have been suppressed and presented as '~' and '-' denotes zero.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat