



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

Ref: FOI2017/13528
03/04/79936

E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

5 February 2018

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX,

Thank you for your email of 20 December 2017 in which you requested the following information:

Please can you provide the total number of sexual harassment allegations made against the British army between 2012 – 2017, broken down by year and gender.

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

I also note that MOD has received three further requests from XXX on the subject of sexual harassment allegations contained within further correspondence received from you on 20 December 2017. We have received a further 15 requests between 20 December and 3 January which we either know or suspect to have come from Greenlight. Due to the large number of requests a list is attached at the end of this letter.

Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests where they relate to any extent, to the same or similar information. provided certain conditions are met. These are where the FOI requests:

- are made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- are received within any period of 60 consecutive working days; and

Under Section 12(4) of the FOI Act, provided these conditions are met, the Department is permitted to regard the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them for the purpose of considering whether complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

I am writing to confirm that we hold information on the subject you have requested which is contained in the table below. Serving or former members of the UK armed forces can make a Service Complaint if they feel they have been wronged on a matter that arises when they are subject to service law. This includes complaints of sexual harassment.

These figures are single service estimates and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics. They have been compiled from the Joint Personnel Administration System in the same way that the figures for the Ombudsman reports are produced.

Complaints of sexual harassment by gender and year:

Year	Male	Female
2012	1	4
2013	1	5
2016	1	2

The information you requested for 2014 and 2015 is exempt from release under Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible to applicant) as it is available in the Service Complaints Ombudsman Annual reports, which are accessible at the following link:

<https://www.servicecomplaintsombudsman.org.uk/service-complaints-ombudsman/publications-and-reports/annual-reports/>

Further information on the Service Complaints process is available at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/armed-forces-service-complaints-process>

The breakdown of information requested in the aggregated FOI requests falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at sections 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld. Section 40(2) has been applied in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. 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.

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). 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,

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Army Secretariat

Attachment 1: Details of FOI requests

FOI2017/13531

Please can you provide the number of sexual harassment allegations made against the ColdStream Guards between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2017/13530

Please can you provide the number of sexual harassment allegations made against the Grenadier Guards between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2017/13529

Please can you provide the number of sexual harassment allegations made against the Irish Guards between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender

FOI2017/13528

Please can you provide the total number of sexual harassment allegations made against the British army between 2012 – 2017, broken down by year and gender.

FOI2017/13527

Number of sexual harassment allegations made against service personnel in The London Regiment between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2017/13525

Number of sexual harassment allegations made against service personnel in The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2017/13523

Number of sexual harassment allegations made against Scots Guards between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2017/13608

Number of sexual harassment allegations made against The Royal Irish Regiment between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2017/13609

Number of sexual harassment allegations made against The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2017/13612

Number of sexual harassment allegations made against The Royal Regiment of Scotland between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2017/13618

Number of sexual harassment allegations made against The Mercian Regiment between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2017/13619

Number of sexual harassment allegations made against The Parachute Regiment between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2017/13622

Number of sexual harassment allegations made against The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2018/00094

Please can you provide the number of sexual harassment allegations made against Royal Gurkha Rifles between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2018/00092

Please can you provide the number of sexual harassment allegations made against Royal Anglian Regiment between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2018/00091

Please can you provide the number of sexual harassment allegations made against The Rifles between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and also by gender.

FOI2018/00130

Could you please provide the number of sexual harassment allegations made against The Yorkshire Regiment between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and by gender.

FOI2018/00127

Could you please provide the number of sexual harassment allegations made against The Royal Welsh Regiment between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and by gender.

FOI2018/00144

Could you please provide the number of sexual harassment allegations made against the Welsh Guards between 2012 – 2017? Please break this down by year, and by gender.