



Ministry
of Defence

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Date: 2 December 2012

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 20 November 2013 requesting the following information:

"How many members of the British armed forces, aged between 16 – 24, have died whilst on duty, between the years 2000 and 2013? The information I require may not just be data on deaths that have been related to direct combat, so I ask that if a death of any 16 – 24 year old occurred whilst fulfilling the duties of the armed forces off of the battle field(such as accidents) it still be included. I also request that the data be displayed with the deaths in clear groups of both deaths per age group and deaths per year.

I would be interested in any information held by your organisation regarding my request. I understand that I do not have to specify particular files or documents and that it is the department's responsibility to provide the information I require. If you need further clarification, please contact me by email or telephone."

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

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. The information you requested is provided below.

From 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2012 (the last full year available), **366** UK Armed Forces personnel aged between 16 and 24 have died whilst 'on duty'. **Table 1** below presents this information by year and age group. An Excel version of the table accompanies this document as requested.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces¹ on duty deaths² by calendar year and age group, 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2012, numbers

Year	All	Age	
		Under 20yrs	20-24yrs
All	366	78	288
2000	12	5	7
2001	12	5	7
2002	10	4	6
2003	19	5	14
2004	17	4	13
2005	18	6	12
2006	27	6	21
2007	57	13	44
2008	26	3	23
2009	67	13	54
2010	51	9	42
2011	27	2	25
2012	23	3	20

Notes:

1. Figures are for tri-Service regular and reservist personnel.
2. Figures are for all causes of death whilst on duty; Natural causes, accidents, hostile action, assault, coroner confirmed suicide or open verdicts and causes not yet available.

Defence Statistics (Health) release annual updates on deaths in the Armed Forces as a National Statistic publication. In accordance with the Code of Practice for the release of National/Official Statistics we are unable to provide the data for 2013 prior to the next statistical release, due on 27 March 2014, as set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. The latest edition can be found at the below link;

[Deaths in the UK Regular Armed Forces 2012](#)

You requested any information held on deaths which occurred whilst 'on duty' to 16 to 24 year olds. If the information supplied above does not satisfy your request, please could you clarify further the nature of information or documentation you require.

Background notes

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering deaths 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

Defence Statistics (Health) compiles the Department's authoritative deaths database for all **UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service** going back to 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail 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)