



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)  
Ministry of Defence  
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Reference: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date: 13 February 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 4 February 2014 where you requested the following information:

- "1) Since April 2009, the number of RPAS personnel who have had an initial assessment for a mental health disorder at a MOD Department for Community Mental Health*
- 2) Since April 2009, the number of RPAS personnel who have had an admission at a MOD in-patient provider for a mental health disorder*
- 3) Could you also provide a breakdown of both 1 and 2 by mental health disorder, including PTSD.*
- 4) Since April 2009, the number of RPAS personnel who have an electronic primary care record for any medical diagnosis."*

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 the information in scope of your request is held. The information which can be released is enclosed.

Some information held by the Department falling within scope of your request falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Information which is Personal Data whose release is governed by the Data Protection Act (DPA)) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information requested to protect personal information. Due to the small numbers of RPAS personnel with a mental disorder, disclosure of the number by mental health disorder type is likely to inadvertently disclose the identity of individuals.

MOD Department for Community Mental Health (DCMH) and In-patient provider data is currently available up to 30 September 2013.

Between 1 April 2009 and 30 September 2013:

- **Fewer than five** RPAS personnel had an initial assessment for a mental health disorder at a MOD Department for Community Mental Health (DCMH).
- **No** RPAS personnel had an admission at a MOD in-patient provider for a mental health disorder.
- As fewer than five personnel had an initial assessment for a mental health disorder at a MOD DCMH, Defence Statistics have not provided a breakdown of assessment outcomes by mental health disorder. This is to ensure individual identities are not revealed inadvertently. This is in line with Defence Statistic's rounding policy (May 2009) for health statistics and in keeping with the Office for National Statistics Guidelines.
- **152** RPAS personnel have had medical diagnosis entered in their electronic primary care record

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

The electronic patient record has information that is Read coded. Read codes are a set of clinical codes designed for Primary Care to record the every day care of a Patient. They are part of a hierarchical structure and form the recognised standard for General Practice.

All Read codes prefixed with a capital letter (e.g. A...., B...., C...etc) have been included in the search. These represent the Diagnostic chapters of the Read code hierarchy for all conditions. Please note that codes for symptoms and processes of care have not been included.

Any data entered as free text only in the patients' medical record will not be included in the figures presented as this information is not available in the data warehouse.

There has been no clinical audit of the accuracy of the data recorded on the patient's record.

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