



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
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Reference: **27-09-2013-154533-014**

[Redacted]

Date: **24 October 2013**

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 26 September 2013 requesting the following information:

Question One: How many Gurkha's have been Wounded-in-the-Line-of-Duty, since the End of the Second World War to September 2014.

Question Two: How many Gurkha's have become ill, or developed chronic illnesses and disabilities from military service, since the End of the Second World War to September 2014.

Question Three: How many Gurkha's have been medically discharged from British Army / Brigade of Gurkha's, since the End of the Second World War to September 2014.

Question Four: How many Gurkha's have been awarded or received War Pension's Disability Benefits and/or Compensation for Wounded-in-the-Line-of-Duty, or become ill, or developed chronic illnesses and disabilities from military service, since the End of the Second World War to September 2014.

Question Five: How many Gurkha's have Killed-in-the-Line-of-Duty, since the End of the Second World War to September 2014.

Also please given Names, Rank,'s Numbers, Unit's, how they died and where for each Gurkha soldier, NCO and Office too?.

Question Six: How many Gurkha's families have been awarded or received War Pension's Death Benefits and/or Compensation, for their Gurkha relative Killed-in-the-Line-of-Duty, since the End of the Second World War to September 2014.

Question Seven: How many Gurkha's families have been awarded or received the Queen Elizabeth Cross Medal, for their Gurkha relative Killed-in-the-Line-of-Duty, since the End of the Second World War to September 2014.

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

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds some of the information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to identify Gurkha's that were casualties in conflicts prior to Afghanistan and Iraq would involve recalling documents including war diaries, commander logs and situation reports which would take more than a year to compile.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central

government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce to the time range or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that although we may hold some of the raw data from which your request could be answered in the format requested, Section 11(3) of the FOI Act allows for the department to refuse a request where it determines that it is not reasonably practicable to comply with the request.

For part 5 of your request, I can advise you request the identifiable information of Gurkha's Killed-in-the-Line-of-Duty separately from Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) at veterans.help@spva.gsi.gov.uk as an FOI to be answered as a memorial request.

Defence Statistics hold some information and if this is of interest to you we could consider providing the following:

For Wounded-in-the-Line-of-Duty, part 1 of your request:

- The number of Gurkha's injured as a result of hostile action from 2001 to September 2013. Please note Defence Statistics interpret 'wounded' as injured as a result of hostile action.

For illness, chronic illnesses and disabilities, part 2 of your request:

- The number of Gurkha's downgraded and classified as 'no longer fit to deploy' from 2010 to September 2013. Please note MOD does not classify personnel as 'disabled'.
- Currently our systems do not capture reasons for downgrading in a way which enables MOD to report. A system upgrade is currently being worked on which will enable us to report on numbers downgraded due to chronic illness. In order to currently ascertain reasons for downgrading Defence Statistics would have to access medical records which falls within the scope of the following absolute exemption(s) under the Act: Section 40: Personal Information.

For medical discharges, part 3 of your request:

- The number of Gurkha's medically discharged from October 1997 to March 2013. Please note Defence Statistics hold medical discharge data back to 1995, however we are only able to identify Gurkha's from October 1997.

For pensions and compensations, part 4 and 6 of your request:

- The number of Gurkha's awarded under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) for an injury or illness caused by service from April 2005 to March 2013.
- The number of spouses, eligible partners and children in receipt of compensation under the AFCS as a result of a death of a member of the Gurkha personnel due to service from April 2005 to March 2013.

For deaths, part 5 of your request:

- The number of Gurkha's killed in line of duty from 1984 to 2012.

For medals, part 7 of your request:

- The number of Gurkha's families awarded or received the Queen Elizabeth Cross Medal from 1984 to 2012.

Background Notes

Operational Casualties Defence Statistics release a monthly Official Statistic on the number of casualties and fatalities in Afghanistan.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/operational-casualties/fatality-and-casualty>

Medical Discharges Defence Statistics release an annual Official Statistic on medical discharges in the UK Armed Forces. Medical discharges are the result of a number of specialists (medical, occupational, psychological, personnel, etc) coming to the conclusion that an individual is suffering from a medical condition that pre-empts their continued service in the Armed Forces.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/medical/medical-discharges>

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) came into force on 6 April 2005 to pay compensation for injury, illness or death attributable to Service that occurred on or after that date. It replaced the previous compensation arrangements provided by the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) and the attributable elements of the Armed Forces Pensions Scheme.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/veterans/armed-forces-compensation-scheme>

Deaths Defence Statistic release an annual National Statistic on deaths among the UK regular Armed Forces, and trends over the ten year period.

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/deaths/deaths-in-service>

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering Operational Casualties, Medical Discharges, Deaths, and/or Compensation and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing 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 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 you find this information useful

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics Health Information Head (B1)