



Ministry  
of Defence

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Reference: [REDACTED]

Date: 09 October 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 11 September 2013 requesting the following information:

*With reference to our telephone conversation we are looking to obtain information pertaining to casualties of recent conflicts. If possible, I would be grateful if you could provide me the following information for a presentation I will be giving later today. I appreciate this is a big ask, so I have listed them in order of importance:*

- *Number of military personnel suffering from combat related injuries from the start of the Afghan conflict to present.*
- *Number of those registered as suffering from PTSD.*
- *The geographical spread of those injured, i.e Scotland, England, Wales etc.*
- *If possible, number of injured troops in Edinburgh.*

*In addition to this information but not of a matter of urgency, could you provide me with the following information:*

- *Number of combat related injuries and geographically location for the following conflicts:*
  - *Falklands War*
  - *Gulf War*
  - *Balkans Conflict*
  - *Sierra Leone*
  - *Afghanistan*
  - *Iraq*

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

In the response provided on 11 September 2013 Defence Statistics agreed to provide:

- a. Of the number of serving and ex-serving UK Service Personnel who've suffered from combat related injuries whilst on Operations in Afghanistan the number recorded as suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
- b. The location breakdown of serving and ex-serving UK Service Personnel who've suffered from combat related injuries whilst on Operations in Afghanistan.

- c. The location breakdown of serving and ex-serving UK Service Personnel who've suffered from combat related injuries whilst on Operations in Iraq. The numbers that will be provided should be treated as a minimum. Defence Statistics has manually entered over 30,000 hospital admissions records for patients seen in the UK field hospitals in Iraq (from 2003 to 2006). These records have not been validated and so information such as the type of casualty (Battle Injury, Non Battle Injury or Natural Cause) and nationality of casualty (UK Armed Forces, coalition military, civilians) is not known. In order to provide you with the total number of UK Service Personnel and UK Civilians wounded in Iraq for the period 2003-2006, Defence Statistics would have to validate all of these records. It is estimated it would take an additional 300 working days to validate and compile the numbers of UK Armed Forces wounded in Iraq.

The information you have requested can be found below.

### **Afghanistan**

From 7 October 2001 (start of Operations in Afghanistan) to 31 July 2013 (latest date available) **2,332** UK Service Personnel suffered combat related injuries whilst on Operations in Afghanistan. Please note personnel have only been counted once even if they've suffered more than one combat related injury.

Of the 2,332 UK Service Personnel, **224** have a record of PTSD<sup>1</sup>.

- a. **153** have an initial assessment for PTSD at a MOD Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) or in-patient facility between 01 January 2007 and 30 June 2013 following injury.
- b. **124** have been awarded for PTSD under the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) as at 31 March 2013.

Of the 2,332 UK Service Personnel: **1,463** are still serving against requirement<sup>2</sup> and **86** are still serving but not against requirement<sup>3</sup>. **Table 1** shows the location breakdown for these personnel as at 01 July 2013.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note it is not possible to attribute cases of PTSD to deployment

<sup>2</sup> Includes trained UK Regular Forces, trained Gurkhas and elements of the Full Time Reserve

<sup>3</sup> Includes elements of the UK Reserve Forces

**Table 1: Serving UK Service Personnel who sustained a Battle Injury on operations in Afghanistan by Permanent Stationed Location<sup>1,2</sup>, 1 July 2013, Number**

Location	Serving - against requirement	Serving - not against requirement
<b>All</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>86</b>
Europe (UK)	1,352	~
<i>England</i>	1,150	69
<i>Scotland</i>	107	7
<i>Wales</i>	40	~
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	55	6
Europe (Exc. UK)	91	~
Asia (Exc. Middle East)	7	0
North Africa / Middle East	~	0
Sub Saharan Africa	~	0
North America	7	0
Oceania	~	0
Unallocated	~	0

Source: Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system

1. Personnel deployed on operations and temporary assignments are shown against their permanent stationed location and not the deployed location.
2. Information presented is the last known location on the JPA system

Data presented as “~” has been suppressed in accordance with Defence Statistics' rounding policy.

There were 114 UK Service Personnel who sustained a combat related injury whilst on Operations in Afghanistan and, as at 01 July 2013 were still serving and based in Scotland; **40** of these were located in Edinburgh.

Of the 2,332 UK Service Personnel, 783 are no longer serving. Location information is available if an individual has made a claim under AFCS. Please note, 190 of these had not made a claim and therefore no location information is provided. **Table 2** shows the location breakdown for ex-UK Service Personnel as at 31 March 2013.

**Table 2: Ex-UK Service Personnel who sustained a Battle Injury on operations in Afghanistan by Location<sup>1</sup>, 31 March 2013, Number**

Location	Ex-Service Personnel
<b>All</b>	<b>783</b>
Europe (UK)	590
<i>England</i>	513
<i>Scotland</i>	43
<i>Wales</i>	25
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	9
Europe (Exc. UK)	0
Asia (Exc. Middle East)	0
North Africa / Middle East	0
Sub Saharan Africa	0
North America	0
Oceania	0
Unallocated	193

Source: Defence Statistics Health database

1. Location information at time of AFCS claim

Data presented as “~” has been suppressed in accordance with Defence Statistics' rounding policy.

There were 43 Ex-UK Service Personnel who suffered a combat related injury whilst on Operations in Afghanistan and, as at 31 March 2013 had made a claim whilst being located in Scotland; **5** of these were located in Edinburgh.

## Iraq

From 01 January 2003 (start of Operations in Iraq) to 21 May 2011 (end of Operations in Iraq) **574** UK Service Personnel suffered combat related injuries whilst on Operations in Iraq. Please note personnel have only been counted once even if they've suffered more than one combat related injury.

Of the 574 UK Service Personnel: 221 are still serving against requirement<sup>4</sup> and 22 are still serving but not against requirement<sup>5</sup>. **Table 3** shows the location breakdown for the 243 personnel as at 01 July 2013.

**Table 3: Serving UK Service Personnel who sustained a Battle Injury on operations in Iraq by Permanent Stationed Location<sup>1,2</sup>, 01 July 2013, Number**

Location	Serving - against requirement	Serving - not against requirement
<b>All</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>22</b>
Europe (UK)	173	~
<i>England</i>	142	17
<i>Scotland</i>	15	~
<i>Wales</i>	6	~
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	10	0
Europe (Exc. UK)	44	0
Asia (Exc. Middle East)	0	0
North Africa / Middle East	~	0
Sub Saharan Africa	0	0
North America	~	0
Oceania	0	0
Unknown	~	~

Source: Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system

1. Personnel deployed on operations and temporary assignments are shown against their permanent stationed location and not the deployed location.
  2. Information presented is the last known location on the JPA system
- Data presented as “~” has been suppressed in accordance with Defence Statistics' rounding policy.

Of the 574 UK Service Personnel, 331 are no longer serving. Location information is available if an individual has made a claim under AFCS. Please note, 184 of these had not made a claim and therefore no location information is provided. **Table 4** shows the location breakdown for ex-UK Service Personnel as at 31 March 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Includes trained UK Regular Forces, trained Gurkhas and elements of the Full Time Reserve

<sup>5</sup> Includes elements of the UK Reserve Forces

**Table 4: Ex-UK Service Personnel who sustained a Battle Injury on operations in Iraq by Location<sup>1</sup>, 31 March 2013, Number**

Location	Ex-Service Personnel
<b>All</b>	<b>331</b>
Europe (UK)	147
<i>England</i>	123
<i>Scotland</i>	13
<i>Wales</i>	~
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	~
Europe (Exc. UK)	0
Asia (Exc. Middle East)	0
North Africa / Middle East	0
Sub Saharan Africa	0
North America	0
Oceania	0
Unknown	184

Source: Defence Statistics Health database

1. Location information at time of AFCS claim

Data presented as “~” has been suppressed in accordance with Defence Statistics' rounding policy

If an AFCS claim was made whilst an individual was still serving the most recent location information would be their permanent stationed location at the time of leaving the UK Armed Forces. It is estimated this information would take approximately 2.5 days to ascertain which, in addition to the work already produced, would result in this response exceeding the appropriate limit of 3.5 working days placed on FOI requests.

Section 12 of the FOI 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, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

### **Background Notes**

This response has been scrutinised to ensure individual identities have not been revealed inadvertently. In line with Defence Statistics' rounding policy for health statistics (May 2009), and in keeping with the Office for National Statistics Guidelines, all numbers less than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there is only one cell in a row or column that is less than five, the next smallest number (or numbers where there are tied values) has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

### Casualties

The figures on the number of casualties presented are sourced from Defence Statistics four main casualty reporting systems (the Notification of Casualty (NOTICAS) system, field hospital admissions data, the Aeromedical Evacuation data and the Joint Theatre Trauma Registry) and have been merged to determine the total number of casualties on Operations in Iraq and in Afghanistan. It does not include personnel who attend a UK or Coalition Medical Field Hospital Facility but who are not admitted. These figures also do not include those who are seen in primary health care.

### *NOTICAS*

NOTICAS is the name for the formalised system of reporting casualties within the UK Armed Forces. The NOTICAS reports raised for casualties contain information on how seriously medical

staff in theatre judge their condition to be. They are not strictly medical categories but are designed to give an indication of the severity of the injury to inform what the individual's next of kin are told.

#### *Field Hospital Admissions*

The EpiNATO J97 returns are used to identify field hospital admissions for UK personnel treated at the UK field hospital as well as those treated at coalition medical facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Defence Statistics also received information on admissions at the UK Field Hospital from the electronic Operational Emergency Department Attendance Register (OpEDAR).

In addition Defence Statistics have sourced the UK field hospital admission books for the early phases of operations in Iraq. Over 30,000 patients have been entered into a database. The data holds minimal information on the casualty, but does give an indication of the numbers of patients treated for battle injuries (WIA), non battle injuries and disease; these include UK Armed Forces, coalition forces, Iraqi civilians and detainees.

#### *Aeromedical Evacuations*

Aeromedical Evacuation is the medically supervised movement of patients to and between medical facilities by air transportation. The RAF Aeromedical Evacuation Service provides the worldwide patient air movement capability for Defence 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Patients are risk assessed prior to flight, and when necessary, trained medical teams are provided to deliver care in the air.

Defence Statistics receive Aeromedical Evacuation records fortnightly from the Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) at RAF Brize Norton for Operations in Afghanistan and previously, Iraq.

#### *Joint Theatre Trauma Registry (JTTR)*

The Joint Theatre Trauma Registry (JTTR) commenced during 2003 to improve the care of the seriously injured patient from the point of injury to the point of discharge from hospital treatment.

Information in this response only includes operational casualties classified as a Battle Injury. A Battle Injury includes those wounded as a result of hostile action. This includes injuries sustained whilst avoiding direct and indirect fire.

#### Mental Health data

Mental Health Data used in this response was sourced using the Defence Statistics DCMH database, Defence Medical Capability Program (DMICP) using the electronic patient record and the Defence Statistics in-patient database:

- a. Since January 2007, DCMH have submitted relevant information required to produce this response to Defence Statistics on a monthly basis (captured on the DS database).
- b. Since April 2012, system developments enabled DCMH to begin recording on the MOD's electronic patient record system (DMICP) in a consistent way for reporting.
- c. Since January 2007, SSSFT and Guys and St Thomas' hospital have submitted relevant information required to produce this response to Defence Statistics

DCMH are specialised psychiatric services based on community mental health teams closely located with primary care services at sites in the UK and abroad. Information on patients seen only by their GP or medical officer will be investigated for the next annual report. All UK based and aero-medically evacuated Service personnel based overseas requiring in-patient admission are treated by one of eight NHS trusts in the UK which are part of a consortium headed by the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation trust; UK based Service personnel from British Forces Germany were treated at Guys and St Thomas Hospital in the UK up until April 2013 and from this date, at Gilead IV hospital, Bielefeld under a contract with SSAFA through the Limited Liability Partnership

DCMH staff record the initial mental health assessment during a patient's first appointment, based on presenting complaints. The information is provisional and final diagnoses may differ as some patients do not present the full range of symptoms, signs or clinical history during their first appointment. The mental health assessment of condition data were categorised into three standard groupings of common mental disorders used by the World Health Organisation's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health-Related Disorders 10<sup>th</sup> edition (ICD-10).

The numbers presented in this response should be treated as a minimum for the following reasons:

- a. Initial assessment was not recorded for all DCMH or in-patient records over this time period;
  - 1) **36** UK Armed Forces personnel with a DCMH record who were identified as previously deployed to Afghanistan
  - 2) **91** personnel admitted to an in-patient facility were identified as previously deployed to Afghanistan.

#### 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.

The figures presented are based on data stored on the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency's Compensation and Pension System (CAPS).

The figures provided have been based on the contact address recorded by SPVA at the time a claim was made. Please note that once a case is closed, the contact address is not always updated and therefore may not be the current address for individuals who have moved.

Please note that contact address information is not complete for all records on the Compensation and Pension System (CAPS) and therefore the figures provided should be treated as the minimum level of recipients in a particular area.

For information, Defence Statistics publish the overall numbers of Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS), Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and War Pension Scheme (WPS) recipients in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in the publication: 'Location of Armed Forces Pension and Compensation Recipients'. This is available at [www.dasa.mod.uk](http://www.dasa.mod.uk) under 'Other publications', 'Health/medical statistics'.

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, Mental Health and/or AFCS 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd 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)