



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: [REDACTED]

Email to: [REDACTED]

16 June 2014

Dear Mr [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 19 May 2014 in which you requested the following information:

Since 2006, how many cases have been recorded of British military personnel going 'AWOL'?

I am writing to confirm that we are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act). I can confirm that the MOD holds some information within the scope of your request.

Please find below two tables which provide you with the information you were seeking:

Regular Service Personnel AWOL by Year

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Army	470	940	640	690	800	480	430	300	100
Naval Service	~	30	20	20	10	10	10	~	~
Royal Air Force	~	10	~	~	~	~	~	10	~

Regular Service Personnel still AWOL by Year

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Army	~	40	50	60	90	110	110	300	~
Naval Service	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Royal Air Force	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	10	~

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, the figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10, where "-" denotes zero, "~" denotes a number less than or equal to five. When rounding up to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

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). 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>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Personnel Secretariat FOI