



Ministry  
of Defence

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correspondence dated: 16 June 2014

Date: 14 July 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 16 June 2014 requesting the following information:

*"Would it be possible for me to find out what Cancers ex soldiers from Gulf War 1 have died of please"*

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 enclosed.

**Table 1** provides a summary of the deaths in ex-Army personnel who served in Gulf War 1 by Cancer type

**Table 1: UK Gulf (1991) Army veterans, deaths due to Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms): 1 April 1991 - 31 December 2013, numbers**

ICD code	Cancer site	Number
<b>C00-C99</b>	<b>Malignant Neoplasms (MN)</b>	<b>258</b>
<b>C00-C14</b>	<b>MN of lip, oral cavity and pharynx</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>C15-C26, C48</b>	<b>MN of digestive organs and peritoneum</b>	<b>79</b>
C15	MN of oesophagus	22
C16	MN of stomach	10
C18	MN of colon	9
C19	MN of rectosigmoid junction	4
C20	MN of rectum	9
C22	MN of liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	6
C25	MN of pancreas	15
C26	MN of other and ill-defined digestive organs	2
<b>C30-C39</b>	<b>MN of respiratory and intrathoracic organs</b>	<b>43</b>
C34	MN of bronchus and lung	38
<b>C40-C45, C47, C49-C50</b>	<b>MN of bone, connective tissue, skin and breast</b>	<b>21</b>
C41	MN of bone and articular cartilage of other and unspecified sites	1
C43	Malignant melanoma of skin	12
C45	Mesothelioma	1
C50	MN of breast	4
<b>C51-C68</b>	<b>MN of genitourinary organs</b>	<b>28</b>
C56	MN of ovary	4
C61	MN of prostate	5
C64	MN of kidney, except renal pelvis	12
C67	MN of bladder	5
<b>C69-C80</b>	<b>MN of other and unspecified sites</b>	<b>36</b>
C71	MN of brain	21
C80	Malignant neoplasm without specification of site	11
<b>C81-C96</b>	<b>MN of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissue</b>	<b>36</b>
C81-C85, C91.4, C96	Lymphomas	16
C81	Hodgkins disease	3
C82-C85, C91.4, C96	Non-Hodgkins lymphoma	13
C91-C95 excl C91.4	Leukaemias	16
C92	Myeloid leukaemia	10
<b>C97</b>	<b>Malignant neoplasms of independent (primary) multiple sites</b>	<b>1</b>

As at 31 December, **258** Army veterans of the Gulf (1991) conflict had died due to Cancer (Malignant neoplasm)

Under section 16 (advice and assistance) you might like to note:

Gulf 1 veterans consist of Regular/Reservist Army personnel deployed to any Gulf state between 1 September 1990 and 30 June 1991. This data does not include civilian personnel employed by the MOD (including the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Naval Services, Marine, RAF and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI), MOD civil servants), by other Government Departments, or civilians working for Defence Contractors, the media or charitable and humanitarian organisations.

These figures are based on the latest cancer information received by the MOD (as at 31 December 2013). The registration of cancer is a dynamic process in the sense that the data files in the cancer registries are always open and may be amended, for example, the site code may be modified should later and more accurate information become available. The date of death is added for cases registered when the person was alive. Records may be cancelled, although this is relatively unusual. There may also be a delay in the MOD receiving notification of a cancer registration.

Defence Statistics receive death certificates for members of the study (Gulf cohort) on a monthly basis from two sources. England and Wales's death certificates are provided by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care and Scottish death certificates are provided by the General Register Office (GRO) for Scotland.

Death certificates and members and postings updates for Northern Ireland are not currently received. The Central Services Agency produces all coded death information for medical research in Northern Ireland. It is hoped that Defence Statistics will be able to receive regular updates in line with England and Wales, and Scotland in the near future for Northern Ireland to improve the timeliness of information on flagged individuals in Northern Ireland

Defence Statistics also receive quarterly 'members and postings' updates from the NHS Information Centre and GRO Scotland. These contain the latest known situation for each study member, i.e. whether they are currently registered with a GP, whether they have died, or whether they have emigrated. This information is required so that individuals who have become lost to follow up can be identified.

Deaths and cancer registrations have been coded to the World Health Organisation's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision (ICD-10), 1992. Individuals with Cancer (Malignant neoplasm) have a death code between C00-C99.

1. Further figures and information on Gulf cancer deaths can be found on the Defence Statistics website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/causes-of-deaths-that-occurred-among-the-uk-veterans-of-the-199091-gulf-conflict>

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