



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: [REDACTED]

Email to: [REDACTED]

23 June 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 5 June 2014 in which you requesting the following information:

- "1. I would like the numbers of sexual offence allegations made by women in the armed forces against another member of the services over the last three years.*
- 2. I would like the numbers of complaints of harassment or bullying made by members of the armed forces against another member of the armed forces over the last three years.*
- 3. I would to know how many incidents in each of the three years resulted in a) Criminal Conviction, b) Police Caution, c) dismissal from service, d) apology."*

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

The answer to Parts 1 and 3 of your request is contained in Annex A to this letter.

Any allegation of a sexual offence is taken extremely seriously, thoroughly investigated and appropriate action taken. We recognise the great courage it takes to comes forward and report a sexual offence which is precisely why we have extensive support in place for those affected and investigate any allegation thoroughly. Where there is a case to answer this is referred to the independent Service Prosecuting Authority who will determine whether to prosecute.

Within the Service Justice System, the Service Police are tasked with investigating the full range of criminal offences. Importantly, however, their ability to provide statistical information on crime involving members of the Armed Forces personnel is limited by the jurisdictional arrangements that apply. Primacy rests with the civilian police, although the Service Police may take the lead in an investigation if both the suspect and the victim in a particular case are serving members of the Armed Forces. However, the more serious the offence, the greater the likelihood is that jurisdiction will be retained by the civilian force, if the offence took place in the UK. Furthermore, the civilian police will nearly always retain jurisdiction in the event of a case involving a civilian suspect.

The information has been extracted from a database known as "REDCAP" and is based on cases where the Service Police have jurisdiction and the investigative lead. It does not, therefore, include cases which have been dealt with by the civilian police, for which only limited information is held.

Part 2 of your request is exempt under Section 21 of the FOI Act because it is accessible to you by other means. The Service Complaints Commissioner (SCC) has a website which includes a link to the last five years annual reports which contain data to answer this part of your request. The SCC site can be found at:

<http://armedforcescomplaints.independent.gov.uk/newsandpublications.htm>

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Personnel Secretariat

SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS MADE TO AND INVESTIGATED BY SERVICE POLICE INVOLVING FEMALE VICTIM SUBJECT TO SERVICE LAW (SSL) AND MALE OR FEMALE SUSPECT SSL BETWEEN 01 JAN 11 AND 31 DEC 13

Sexual assault by penetration (SOA03 s.2)

Year offence reported	Investigations involving female victim	Investigations pending Service Prosecuting Authority (SPA) decision to prosecute	Criminal conviction result	Conviction resulting in dismissal from HM Forces
2011	~	-	~	~
2012	~	-	-	-
2013	~	~	~	-

Sexual assault no penetration (SOA03 s.3)

Year offence reported	Investigations involving female victim	Investigations pending Service Prosecuting Authority (SPA) decision to prosecute	Criminal conviction result	Conviction resulting in dismissal from HM Forces
2011	20	-	10	~
2012	20	-	~	~
2013	20	10	~	-

Notes:

1. The Service Police have no lawful authority to issue Police Cautions.

2. 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.