



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Telephone: [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

1 October 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 29th August 2014 in which you requested the following information:

"The total number of active personnel who've been convicted of a crime in the civilian justice system while serving

Of those, the total number of personnel who continued to serve, after their conviction(s) and Sentence

The total number of personnel who were discharged after their conviction(s)

Could I get figures broken down into Navy, RAF, or Army?

Could I get the data from the last ten financial years?

If that falls outside my allocated budget, could I get the data from the last five financial years?

If that falls outside my allocated budget, could I get the data from the last four financial years?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence. I can confirm that the MOD does hold information within the scope of your request covering the last four financial years. The information we can provide has been extracted from the MoD system used to manage personnel records for Service personnel; the Joint Personnel Administration System. There are, however, a number of caveats which are to be applied to this information:

- (i) *The JPA database was not originally designed to capture and hold disciplinary information, including convictions. Work is ongoing to refine JPA systems and processes, but currently we believe the data to have a +/- variance of 12%.*

- (ii) Information about convictions awarded in the civilian justice system depend on personnel informing their chain of command or in certain circumstances of the civil police notifying the Department under the Notifiable Occupation Scheme.
- (iii) Administrative discharges following a civil conviction may have taken into account other factors in addition to the conviction.

With this in mind, the information we hold shows the following:

Table 1 - numbers of Service personnel who have reported a civil conviction to their chain of command or where the Department has been notified of one and which were subsequently recorded on JPA.

Table 1

Service	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
RAF	180	180	110	70
RN/RM	270	260	170	160
ARMY	1180	1580	970	1230
TOTAL	1630	2020	1250	1470

Table 2 refers to numbers of Service personnel who were administratively discharged following a civil conviction.

Table 2

Service	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
RAF	10	~	~	~
RN/RM	10	10	~	10
ARMY	40	80	50	80
TOTAL	60	90	50	90

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

The Armed Forces considers the impact of a service personnel's conviction in a civilian court on the Service. Where appropriate, and depending on the circumstances, a variety of sanctions are available which range from a warning through to administrative discharge in the very small number of more serious cases.

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