



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: [REDACTED]

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24 November 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 27 October in which you requested the following information:

Could you please provide a data spreadsheet of each instance of suspected or proven male rape or sexual assault by a man/men on another man between 1 October 2012 and 1 October 2014? Could you please provide the month and year for each case, the age of suspects and the age of the victim? Where there are multiple suspects/victims could this be made clear. Please be aware I am mindful of DPA and lifetime anonymity for victims of sexual assault but this would not be compromised by the limited information I am requesting. Could you please discount all instances of abuse against under-16s.

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. In answering the request we have interpreted rape and sexual assault as offences contrary to sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. The information has been collated by the Service Police Crime Bureau's (SPCB) Crime Statistics Analysis Cell (CSAC) on behalf of the Royal Navy Police, the Royal Military Police and the Royal Air Force Police. The Ministry of Defence Police does not have any recorded incidents in scope of your request. The data is limited to information recorded by the MOD for the period 01 October 2012 and 01 October 2014 based on cases where the Service Police or the Ministry of Defence Police have jurisdiction and the investigative lead. It does not therefore, include cases which have been dealt with by the civilian police.

The SPCB information has been extracted from a database known as "REDCAP". While REDCAP can be searched in various ways (for example, via crime classification, date of offence or date of birth), problems with the way information has been electronically recorded over many years means that its search tools do not enable it to provide accurate answers to Questions of this kind. The CSAC has therefore made a general ("catch all") search of REDCAP using its existing search facilities (based on, amongst other things, crime classifications) followed by manual checks on records to determine (a) whether the information held on REDCAP is accurate; and (b) whether it falls within the scope of the question.

The MOD takes all forms of sexual offending seriously. Sexual assault and rape have no place in the military, and no place in any decent society. We recognise the great courage it takes to come 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.

The Armed Forces have a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse, bullying, and discrimination. We will continue to ensure that every allegation is thoroughly investigated, and where appropriate, action is taken. There is no evidence to suggest that rates of sexual offending in the Armed Forces are higher than in the broader population.

Information held by the MOD which falls within the scope of your request is presented in the tables below. Data relates to investigations of alleged offences by Service Police forces where both the victim/s and alleged perpetrator/s are male.

RAPE (s1, SOA 03)

Oct 2012 – Oct 2014	Age of Victim at time of incident	Age of Suspect at time of Incident
Oct 2012	31 years old	Not known
Feb 2013	22 years old	27 years old
Jan 2014	29 years old	Not known

ASSAULT BY PENETRATION (s2, SOA 03)

Oct 2012 – Oct 2014	Age of Victim at time of incident	Age of Suspect(s) at time of Incident
Feb 2013	22 years old	27 years old
Feb 2013	26 years old	19 years old
Mar 2013	20 years old	23 & 24 years old
Apr 2013	18 years old	two x 19 and 20 years old
Aug 2013	29 years old	30, 22 and 27 years old
Feb 2014	20 years old	28, 26, 23, 2x21, 33 and 32 years old
May 2014	28 years old	20, two x21, 22, 24, 25 and 26 years old

SEXUAL ASSAULT (s3, SOA 03)

Oct 2012 – Oct 2014	Age of Victim(s) at time of Incident	Age of Suspect(s) at time of Incident
Jan 2013	18 years old	21, 20 and 19 years old
April 2013	22 years old	34 years old
July 2013	19 years old	25 years old
July 2013	Not Known	Not Known
July 2013	Not Known	Not Known
Aug 2013	Not Known	Not Known
Sept 2013	Not Known	Not Known
Nov 2013	20 years old	2 x 20 years old
Dec 2013	39 years old	28 years old
Dec 2013	25 and 20 years old	24 years old
Feb 2014	27 years old	two x 24, 23 and 21 years old
March 2014	21 years old	20 years old
May 2014	28 years old	two x 28 and two x 26 years old
June 2014	24 years old	31 years old

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>. I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Personnel Secretariat