



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI 2016 12100

[Redacted]

Date: 05 January 2017

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry Of Defence on 8th November 2016 requesting the following information:

“...the divorce rates amongst war veterans (members of the Armed Forces who have been sent to war). If possible, we would like this information traced for as many years as possible back to the present date.”

Following further communications on 8th December 2016 the request was clarified to be:

“The number of currently serving UK Armed Forces personnel that deployed to Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan from April 2007 with a marital status of ‘married’ in their first month of deployment, and a current marital status of ‘single’, as recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system”

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that all information in scope of your request is held. The data you have requested are available in the table below:

Figure 1: Number of currently serving UK Armed Forces personnel that deployed to operations in Iraq and Afghanistan from April 2007 with a marital category of ‘married’ in their first month of deployment, split by current marital category.

Marital Category at 1 Nov 2016	Number of Service Personnel ³
Married or in a Civil Partnership ¹	6 983
Not Married or in a Civil Partnership ²	980

Source: Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)

Notes:

1. ‘Married or in a Civil Partnership’ in this response is defined as all personnel with a marital category recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration system containing ‘Married or in a Registered Civil Partnership’ or ‘Civil Partnership’ in the description.

2. 'Not Married or in a Civil Partnership' in this response is defined as all personnel with a marital category on the Joint Personnel Administration system recorded as either 'Separated providing voluntary support', 'Separated providing support as result of court order', 'Prime Carer and Provider for Child' and 'all other members of Armed Forces'.

3. Personnel with an unrecorded or undeclared marital category are excluded from these calculations. At present, it is not compulsory for an individual to declare their marital category on the Joint Personnel Administration system.

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, Ground 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering **Military Personnel** and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing DefStrat-Stat-Tri-Enquiries@mod.uk

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Tri-Service)