



Ministry of Defence

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Our Reference: FOI2016/07232

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

16 August 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 20 July in which you requested the following information:

1. How many persons serving in the armed forces have been investigated for a sexual offence by the Service Police/Ministry of Defence Police? Please break down by the nature of the offence (e.g. rape, sexual assault, etc) and the outcome.

Please provide figures for the last three calendar years (2013, 2014 and 2015), broken down by year. If this exceeds cost limit, please just provide the information for 2015 only.

2. How many persons currently serving in the armed forces are on the Sex Offenders register?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000. I can confirm that the MOD does hold information within the scope of your request.

Please find below information covering 'sex offences'. Please note that the Service Police can only provide data on referrals rather than charges, because the Service Police do not charge suspects; whereas information from the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) can refer to charges.

In providing the below information I must draw attention to the following caveats:

- Sexual Assault has been interpreted as offences contrary to Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- The information provided is that recorded by the MOD based on cases where the Service Police or MDP had jurisdiction and the investigative lead. It does not therefore include cases dealt with by the civilian police.

	Sexual Offence Suspects			
Financial Year	Royal Navy/Royal Marines	Army	Royal Air Force	TOTAL
2013-2014	10	80	10	100
2014-2015	10	50	~	60

Note - 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 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.

Under Section 21 of the FOI Act the MOD is not obliged to supply information that is reasonably accessible to the applicant, by other means. Figures specifically related to sexual assault and sexual harassment in the three Services from 2010 to 2015 has been previously published online and can be viewed here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/501242/20160212_FOI_00028_Response_Redacted.pdf

Figures regarding sexual offences other than sexual assault have also been previously published and can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-04-april-2016>

Offences contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003 are dealt with by the Court Martial system and Court Martial results can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/court-martial-results-from-the-military-court-centres>

You may also wish to note that Service Police information is now an official statistic and that information for 2015 has been published and is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sexual-offences-in-the-service-justice-system-2015>.

With regard to your second question, the total number of serving Armed Forces personnel on the sex offenders register, as at 8 July 2016 the numbers were (Figures have been rounded to meet Data Protection Act obligations):

	Sex Offenders Register		
Year	Royal Navy/Royal Marines	Army	Royal Air Force
2016	~	10	~

I hope that this information will be helpful to you.

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, 2nd Floor, Zone N, 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,


Defence People Secretariat