



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

Facsimile: +44 (0)1179 319634

E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

Reference : FOI2015/09244

4 November 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 21 October 2015 requesting the following information:

"I submit this FOI with regard to a previous MOD response to a FOI request with regard to UK Armed Forces personnel deaths in training and exercise from 2000 - 2015.

The MOD response details 125 deaths in the last 15 years.

My request is to better understand the root cause of these deaths. Please could you detail the medical cause, or category, of these deaths, for instance, hyperthermia, hypothermia, fall trauma, coronary failure, head trauma, etc."

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, and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

Information on the medical cause of death for four UK Armed Forces personnel is not currently held by the Ministry of Defence. These deaths are included in the 'Cause not yet known' category of **Table 1** in this response.

Defence Statistics conduct a yearly validation exercise on cause of death information where it cross-references the medical information it holds against publicly available death certificate information available from the NHS. This validated information is released yearly in the National Statistic publication: Deaths in the UK Regular Armed Forces. The latest publication (see link below) details information up until the end of 2014 with data held as at 24 February 2015.

[Deaths in the UK Regular Armed Forces 2005-2014](#)

The next publication to include 2015 deaths is due for release on 31 March 2016.

Since the release of FOI2015/05586 you reference in your email, there have been an additional six deaths added to the total which have occurred whilst on training or exercise. Three of these deaths have occurred since 18 July 2015 and a further three deaths in 2012 have been added after additional information has been received by Defence Statistics.

Table 1 below presents the number of UK Armed Forces deaths on training and exercise by medical cause of death as defined by the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision (ICD-10) for the period 1 January 2000 to 24 October 2015 (the latest data available).

Table 1: UK Armed Forces¹ deaths on training² or exercise by medical cause³ of death, 1 January 2000 to 24 October 2015, numbers

Cause	Number of deaths
All	131
Disease-related conditions	24
Diseases of Circulatory System (I00-I99)	20 ^p
Other diseases (A00-H95, J00-R94)	4
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	98
Injuries to the head (S00-S09)	17 ^p
Injuries to the neck (S10-S19)	3
Injuries to the thorax (S20-S29)	4
Injuries to abdomen, lower back, lumbar spine and pelvis (S30-S39)	1
Injuries involving multiple body regions (T00-T07)	39 ^p
Injuries to unspecified part of trunk, limb or body region (T08-T14)	13 ^p
Effects of foreign body entering through natural orifice (T15-T19)	1
Other and unspecified effects of external causes (T66-T78)	20
Cause not yet known or unascertained (R96-R99)	9^p
<i>of which confirmed at a coroner's inquest⁴</i>	<i>5</i>

Source: Defence Statistics (Health)

Notes:

1. Figures are for regular and reservist personnel.
 2. Figures are for **all** types of training or exercise.
 3. As coded to the World Health Organisation (WHO) International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision (ICD-10).
 4. Deaths which have been investigated by a coroner and for which no definitive medical cause of death can be found.
- ^p denotes provisional where some cause of death information has yet to be validated and could be subject to change.

Defence Statistics (Health) compiles the Department's authoritative deaths database for all **UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service** going back to 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

To record information on cause and circumstances of death, Defence Statistics uses the World Health Organisation's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health-related Problems 10th revision (ICD-10).

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

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health)