



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 10 November 2015 requesting the following information:

“How many members of the British Army have been diagnosed and or treated for a mental health disorder in 2011? 2012? 2013? 2014? So far in 2015?”

If you have this information, and the figures can be provided within the cost limit, can I have this broken down into different disorders? For example, how many suffered with post traumatic stress, depression, anxiety?

If you have this information, and the figures can be provided within the cost limit, can I know how many were under-21? 21-30? 30-40? 40-50? Over 50?”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held by MOD. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. The time taken to retrieve and extract the information within individual medical files relating to GP mental health care, would take in excess of one man year of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) we can consider supplying the following information within the cost limit:

Defence Statistics routinely publish information on UK Armed Forces personnel seen at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services by single Service, financial year, disorder type and age group at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-mental-health-annual-statistics-financial-year-201415>.

Defence Statistics also routinely publish information on UK Armed Forces personnel seen at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services by quarter and data is currently available up to 30

June 2015. This can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-mental-health-quarterly-statistics-financial-year-201516>.

The tables which you may find useful in the annual report are:

Table A3.1 of the Annual report which presents the overall number of Army personnel seen at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services by financial year between 2007/08 and 2014/15.

Table A3.4 of the Annual report which presents Army personnel seen at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services by age group and financial year between 2007/08 and 2014/2015.

Table A3.6 of the Annual report which presents Army personnel seen at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services by mental health disorder type and financial year between 2007/08 and 2014/15.

Table 3 of the Quarterly report which presents the number of UK Armed Forces personnel presenting at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services by Service between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2015.

UK Armed Forces personnel have access to Specialist Mental Health Services, by referrals made by their GP, provided through MOD DCMH or MOD In-patient providers. DCMH are specialised psychiatric services based on community mental health teams closely located with primary care services at MOD sites in the UK and abroad. All UK based and aeromedically evacuated Service personnel based overseas requiring in-patient admission are treated by one of eight NHS trusts in the UK which are part of a consortium headed by the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation trust (SSSFT). UK based Service personnel from British Forces Germany (BFG) were treated at Guys and St Thomas Hospital in the UK up until April 2013 and from this date, at Gilead IV hospital, Bielefeld, under a contract with Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Family Association (SSAFA) through the Limited Liability Partnership.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering mental health in the UK Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk.

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/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)