

## **Proposed cessation of the “Annual Tracking of Afghanistan Very Seriously Injured/Seriously Injured UK Operational Casualties” Official Statistic Bulletin**

The MOD currently publishes an annual Official Statistic that tracks the specialist care provided to personnel very seriously injured (VSI) or seriously injured (SI) on Operations in Afghanistan by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the outcome of that care.

The Official Statistic was first released as a bi-annual report in November 2011 to help satisfy the demand for more information on the injuries sustained by UK Armed Forces in Afghanistan and assist in the future planning of medical care for patients VSI or SI in future conflicts.

This became an annual report in January 2016 due to the decrease in operational intensity in Afghanistan.

Defence Statistics is proposing the cessation of this Official Statistic as:

- a. Following the end of Op HERRICK and the commencing of Op TORAL, the numbers of VSI/SI have reduced with none being reported between April 2014 and September 2015.
- b. In the latest publication (January 2016), over 95% of the VSI/SI care pathways had closed and the Service personnel have either Returned to Duty or left the Services. The continued monitoring is unlikely to improve our understanding on the care pathway and the resource costs in producing the annual statistic will outweigh the benefit of continued production.
- c. There has been a reduction in the number of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, Parliamentary Questions (PQs) and internal MOD requests for information on the tracking of VSI and SI casualties; no PQ or FOI requests received in the last 2 years have asked for information regarding the tracking of Afghanistan VSI and SI casualties.

Please note that the MOD will continue to monitor the healthcare of the personnel VSI and SI in Afghanistan.

The MOD is now seeking external users' views on the cessation of the “Annual Tracking of Afghanistan Very Seriously Injured/Seriously Injured UK Operational Casualties” report.

As long as there is no objection during the consultation period, the cessation of the report will proceed as planned and no further editions of the bulletin will be produced.

Considering the reasons for the proposed changes, we now invite the feedback of our external data users and are keen to know what impact the cessation of this publication will have on you.

Ways to respond

If you have any comments on the proposed changes please send:

By email to: [DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk)

By post to:

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Ministry of Defence  
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When sending your comments please include contact details (your name and either e mail address, postal address or telephone number) so that we can follow up if clarification is needed.