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Our Reference: FOI2016/01593

2 March 2016

Dear ,

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 3 February in which you requested the following information:

Under the FOI Act, could you provide details of the number of allegations of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment and all sex related offences made from 2010 to 2015. I would also like the figures broken down by service and whether the allegations led to any formal charges being made. I would also like details of the number of convictions for the same offences.

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

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 relating to sexual assault and sexual harassment in the three Services from 2010 to 2015 has been previously published online:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/501242/201 60212_FOI_00028_Response_Redacted.pdf

Furthermore, information on cases which resulted in a Court Marshal can be viewed here:

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

Please find attached to this email information covering 'all other sex related offences'. Please note that the Service Police can only refer to referrals rather than charges, because the Service Police do not charge suspects; whereas the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) response can refer to charges.

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

- Cases have been interpreted as investigations in which the Service Police/MDP was the lead investigating agency and jurisdiction.
- For the Service Police, the term charged has been interpreted as having been referred for charge.
- Sexual Assault has been interpreted as offences contrary to Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- Sexual Harassment has been interpreted as an offence under the Protection From Harassment Act 1997.

The information provided is that recorded by the MOD between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2015, 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.

The information has been collated by the Service Police Crime Bureau's (SPCB) Crime Statistics and Analysis Cell (CSAC) on behalf of the Royal Navy Police, the Royal Military Police and Royal Air Force Police and the MDP information has been collated from the MOD Police crime recording system, known as UNIFI.

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 zero, "~" 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.

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, 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, http://www.ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat

Annex A – MDP Figures

Annex B – Service Police figures by single Service