



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building (06/K)
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom +44 (0)20 721 89000

Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 13 May in which you requested the following information:

How many allegations of bullying and harassment were reported for each year from 2010 to date. I would also like to know how many allegations of rape, attempted rape and sexual assault were reported by members of the armed forces since 2010. I would also like to know how many of these allegations led to individuals being charged and prosecuted and what the outcome of the prosecutions. Could the numbers also be broken down by service.

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. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds this information.

In regard to your question concerning bullying, bullying as a title is not a criminal offence. It is a behaviour that can take the form of several types of activity that could in themselves be criminal or service discipline offences (e.g. common assault (criminal)). Please note that the figures relating to bullying may not be precise as there is no crime classification (offence) of bullying and that these are cases where the investigator deems that there is an aspect of bullying to the allegation.

In regard to your question concerning rape, attempted rape, and sexual assault, rape and sexual assault are abhorrent crimes which have no place in the Armed Forces. We do not tolerate offences of this kind and every reported incident of rape, sexual assault or harassment is thoroughly investigated. It is important to note that there is no evidence to suggest that rates of sexual offending in the Armed Forces are higher than in the broader population. However, we recognise the great courage it takes to come forward and report a sexual offence which is precisely why we have extensive support in place for those affected, including helplines, training programmes and awareness campaigns. In addition, The Army has established a Sexual Offences Prevention Working Group to both reduce incidents of sexual assault and improve support to victims.

In answering the request we have interpreted rape and sexual assault as offences contrary to sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. The data is limited to information recorded by the MOD for the period 1 January 2010 to 18 May 2015, based on cases where the Service Police or the MOD Police have jurisdiction and the investigative lead. It does not therefore, include cases which have been dealt with by the civilian police. The information has been collated by the Service Police Crime Bureau's (SPCB) Crime Statistics Analysis Cell (CSAC) on behalf of the Royal Navy Police, the Royal Military Police and the Royal Air Force Police. The SPCB information has been extracted from a database known as "REDCAP".

While REDCAP can be searched in various ways (for example, via crime classification, date of offence or date of birth), problems with the way information has been electronically recorded over many years means that its search tools do not enable it to provide accurate answers to questions of this kind. The CSAC has therefore made a general (“catch all”) search of REDCAP using its existing search facilities (based on, amongst other things, crime classifications) followed by manual checks on records to determine (a) whether the information held on REDCAP is accurate; and (b) whether it falls within the scope of the question. The Ministry of Defence Police information has been collated from the MOD Police Crime Recording system UNIFI.

The term “referrals” relates to investigations where the case has been passed by the Service Police to the Service Prosecuting Authority for consideration. The term “convictions” relates to those that led to a guilty finding at disciplinary proceedings (e.g. Courts Martial) it does not differentiate between those that plead guilty or not guilty and were then found guilty. The information is presented in the tables below, broken down by Service.

ARMY

Bullying and Harassment figures by year

Year	Total Investigations involving bullying	Total Harassment by year
2010	50	20
2011	40	10
2012	60	10
2013	50	20
2014	50	20
2015 (up to 18 May 15)	30	10

Rape/Attempted Rape figures by year (SAO 03 Sect 1)

Year	Total Rape investigations by year	Total Rape referrals by year	Total convictions by year	Total awaiting SPA decision
2010	~	~	-	-
2011	10	10	~	-
2012	20	10	-	-
2013	20	10	~	~
2014	10	~	-	~
2015 (up to 18 May 15)	~	-	-	-

Sexual Assault by Penetration figures by year (SAO 02 Sect 2)

Year	Total SOA03 s.2 investigations by year	Total SOA03 s.2 referrals by year	Total convictions by year	Total awaiting SPA decision
2010	~	~	~	-
2011	10	~	~	-
2012	~	~	~	-
2013	10	10	~	-
2014	~	~	~	~
2015 (up to 18 May 15)	~	~	-	~

Sexual Assault – No Penetration figures by year (SAO Sect 3)

Year	Total SOA03 s.3 investigations by year	Total SOA03 s.3 referrals by year	Total convictions by year	Total awaiting SPA decision
2010	30	20	10	-
2011	20	20	10	-
2012	20	20	10	-
2013	20	20	~	-
2014	20	10	~	-
2015 (up to 18 May 15)	~	-	-	-

ROYAL NAVY**Bullying and Harassment figures by year**

Year	Total Investigations involving bullying	Total Harassment by year
2010	10	~
2011	~	~
2012	~	~
2013	10	~
2014	10	~
2015 (up to 18 May 15)	~	~

Rape/Attempted Rape figures by year (SAO 03 Sect 1)

Year	Total Rape investigations by year	Total Rape referrals by year	Total convictions at Court Martial	Total awaiting SPA decision
2010	~	~	-	-
2011	-	-	-	-
2012	-	-	-	-
2013	~	~	-	-
2014	~	~	-	-
2015	~	-	-	-

Sexual Assault by Penetration figures by year (SAO 02 Sect 2)

Year	Total SOA03 s.2 investigations by year	Total SOA03 s.2 referrals by year	Total convictions by year	Total awaiting SPA decision
2010	-	-	-	-
2011	~	~	~	-
2012	-	-	-	-
2013	~	~	~	-
2014	~	~	~	-
2015	~	-	-	-

Sexual Assault – No Penetration figures by year (SAO Sect 3)

Year	Total SOA03 s.3 investigations by year	Total SOA03 s.3 referrals by year	Total convictions by year	Total awaiting SPA decision
2010	~	-	-	-
2011	10	~	~	-
2012	~	~	~	-
2013	10	~	~	-
2014	~	~	-	-
2015	~	-	-	-

ROYAL AIR FORCE**Bullying and Harassment figures by year**

Year	Total Investigations involving bullying	Total Harassment by year
2010	20	10
2011	10	~
2012	10	-
2013	10	~
2014	10	~
2015 (up to 18 May 15)	~	-

Rape/Attempted Rape figures by year (SAO 03 Sect 1)

Year	Total Rape investigations by year	Total Rape referrals by year	Total convictions at Court Martial	Total awaiting SPA decision
2010	~	~	-	-
2011	~	~	~	-
2012	~	~	-	-
2013	~	~	-	~
2014	~	~	-	~
2015	~	-	-	-

Sexual Assault by Penetration figures by year (SAO 02 Sect 2)

Year	Total SOA03 s.2 investigations by year	Total SOA03 s.2 referrals by year	Total convictions by year	Total awaiting SPA decision
2010	~	~	~	-
2011	~	-	-	-
2012	-	-	-	-
2013	~	~	~	~
2014	-	-	-	-
2015	-	-	-	-

Sexual Assault – No Penetration figures by year (SAO Sect 3)

Year	Total SOA03 s.3 investigations by year	Total SOA03 s.3 referrals by year	Total convictions by year	Total awaiting SPA decision
2010	10	~	~	-
2011	~	~	~	-
2012	~	~	-	-
2013	~	~	-	~
2014	~	-	-	-
2015	~	-	-	-

It should be noted that totals are rounded in accordance with Defence Statistics rounding policy; therefore totals may not equal the sum of their parts. All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid bias. All numbers less than five have been suppressed and presented as '~' and '-' denotes zero.

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