



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
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Date: 2 February 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 4 January 2015 requesting the following information:

"I am interested in locating figures/data relating to the health status/disease frequency of trained service personnel by:

- 1. Voluntary outflow*
- 2. Time expiry*
- 3. Redundancies*

I have usefully located ICD10 codes for those who have been medically discharged, but to ensure a more meaningful analysis, would hugely benefit from the data relating to the three groups above by ICD10 code. Is this something Defence Statistics has access to/can access on my behalf?"

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

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would involve the manual search of patient medical records for all trained members of the UK Armed Forces who have left service due to voluntary outflow, time expiry or redundancy, to determine if each individual has/had a history of health issues or disease diagnoses. We have determined that to produce this information for personnel that left the Services in the last year, would take **at least one 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) I can advise that Defence Statistics could provide the following information if requested:

- The number of Trained UK Armed Forces personnel who left service between 1 April 2007 and 30 November 2014, broken down by Service and reason for outflow (including voluntary outflow, time expiry and redundancy). Information on outflow from the UK Armed Forces is published on a routine basis and can be found in:
 - UK Armed Forces Monthly Personnel Reports: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-monthly-manning-statistics-index>
 - UK Armed Forces Quarterly Personnel Report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-quarterly-manning-report-statistics-index>
 - UK Armed Forces Annual Personnel Report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-annual-manning-statistics-index>

Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. DMICP was rolled out in 2007 and legacy medical data for currently serving personnel was migrated across during rollout. The data between 2007 and 2010 may be incomplete due to the rollout of the electronic medical record system. If information is entered as free text in the patient record then it is not available in the data warehouse.

Information from DMICP has previously been utilised in Freedom of Information Act responses by the MOD. To determine if an individual was still receiving treatment for, or whether they had, a medical condition at the time of discharge would require manual examination of electronic patient records. However, Defence Statistics would be able to provide the number of personnel that were recorded with a specified condition (e.g. diabetes) at any point prior to their discharge. Please note, for us to provide you with further information in this area, we would require you to provide a list of specific conditions for which you desire analysis.

We can also provide information on the numbers of trained (at the point of exit) Service personnel that have been awarded compensation under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) by Tariff of Injury (as detailed within Table 3.3a of our bi-annual report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>).

This will include all Service personnel that have been found to have suffered from a Service-related injury / illness that met the minimum tariff level to be awarded compensation. Note that this may include individuals that suffered from worsening of an injury or developed an illness after they had left Service and therefore may not have left Service with the attributed injury/illness.

Voluntary outflow is defined as all exits from trained personnel which are voluntarily generated by the individual before the end of their agreed engagement or commission period.

Time expiry is the term used to describe those who reach the end of their engagement or commission, then leave the Service.

Service personnel who were selected for redundancy are either applicants or non-applicants. The definitions are:

- Applicants - Eligible personnel who have submitted a valid application for compulsory redundancy.
- Non-applicants - Eligible personnel who are not Applicants.

To aid interpretation of these terms, applicants are Service personnel who actively chose to be made redundant and were subsequently selected for redundancy. Non-applicants were selected by the MOD and did not choose to be selected for redundancy.

Please contact me if you would like to refine your request, or require advice on doing so.

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.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health)