



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our Reference: FOI2016/00167



3 February 2016

Dear ,

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 6 January in which you requested the following information:

Over the last five years to date:

How many service personnel have had their terms of discharge changed from non-medical to medical? (If available, please list the changes in classification).

How many non-medical discharges were later re classified as being a result of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)?

How many non-medical discharges have been appealed?

How many medical discharges were the results of cold weather injuries?

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 relating to your request.

Section 12 of the FOI 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. It has been estimated that to provide the information you request will exceed the FOI cost limit. This limit represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. If any one part of an FOI request exceeds the cost limit, then the whole request must be rejected.

Under Section 16 of the FOI act I can suggest that you may wish to refine the information you seek in questions one, two and three, for example: by narrowing the scope of the request to a single Service or a single year. However, please be aware that a revised request may still be cost exempt. In addition, please note that multiple requests received by the MOD at the same time will be aggregated together and the cost of answering the aggregated FOI may also then exceed the Section 12 cost limit.

Furthermore, while the MOD may be able to provide information on PTSD discharges, we must make you aware that medical discharges generally take into account a wide range of factors. While PTSD may be one aspect, there are likely to be other contributory factors to an individual diagnosis.

Information relating to your fourth question is already published online and can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-service-personnel-medical-discharges-financial-year-201415>

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