



Ministry
of Defence

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20 October 2015

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 22 September 2015 in which you requested the following information:

"I wish to know for the years 2011, 2012, 2013 the number of the UK Trained Adult Personnel who transferred into the RAMC CMT cadre who were medically graded MLD or MND.

B. Reference A. FOI reply 11-06-2014-02268-73237 dated 11 Nov 2014. Could you please update Reference A to show the number of UK Regular Army personnel that went through the RECU process and of those subsequently medically discharged by cause, P-grade and MDS, in 2014.

What are the extant qualifying courses for promotion to Corporal for soldiers in the infantry.

What are the extant career qualifying courses for promotion to Sergeant for soldiers in the infantry."

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

The information you requested is attached. Please note section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This is also in line with the Ministry of Defence's rounding policy, in which numbers fewer than five are suppressed in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Medical discharges result from a number of specialists (medical, occupational, psychological, personnel, etc) coming to the conclusion that an individual is suffering from a medical condition that prevents their continued service in the Armed Forces. Statistics based on these discharges do not represent measures of true morbidity or pathology. At best, they indicate a minimum burden of ill-health in the Armed Forces.

The information about cases was derived from electronic personnel records and manually entered paper documents from medical boards. Although a medical board may recommend a medical discharge, the board may take place many months or even years after an event or injury, and it is not clinically possible in some cases to link an earlier injury to a later problem which may lead to a discharge. Decisions on which injuries are attributable to service are taken by Veterans UK

(formerly the Service Personnel and Veterans' Agency). The increase in the number of personnel being discharged under the RECU process between 2009 and 2013 reflected the introduction and implementation of the process over that period. The number discharged in 2014 fell.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act it might be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence releases annual updates on medical discharges in the UK Armed Forces as an Official Statistic publication. In accordance with the Code of Practice for the release of National/Official Statistics the data for 2015/16 will become available at the next statistical release, due in July 2016, as set out in the Statistics and Registration Service Act, 2007. A link to the information published in July 2015 is at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-personnel-statistics-index>

With regard to infantry promotion to Corporal and Sergeant, course qualification is not an automatic entitlement to promotion. However, personnel must complete the requisite courses before being considered for promotion in competition with their peers.

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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat

1. Of the UK Trained Army Personnel who transferred into the RAMC CMT;
 - In 2011 **fewer than 5** were MLD and **none** were MND
 - In 2012 **eight** were MLD and **fewer than 5** were MND
 - In 2013 **fewer than 5** were MLD and **fewer than 5** were MND
2. Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014 there were **897** UK Regular Army Personnel that went through the Restricted Employment in Current Unit (RECU) process. Of these, **496^P** were subsequently medically discharged from Service on or before 31 December 2014. **Table 1** shows this information broken down by principal cause, Physical Capacity (P Grade) and Medical Deployability Standard (MDS) respectively.

Table 1: UK Regular Army Personnel in the RECU process between 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014 and subsequently medically discharged¹, by principal cause, MDS² and P Grade^{2,3}, Numbers³

Med Cat	All RECU Personnel	All Medically Discharged ¹	Principal Cause of Medical Discharge					In Multiple Cause Groups
			Non Freezing Cold Injury (T68 - T69)	Noise Induced Hearing Loss (H833)	Musculoskeletal disorders (M00 - M99) and Injuries (S00 - T98) ⁴	Other Cause Code ⁵	Unknown	
All	897	496 ^P	14 ^P	10 ^P	140 ^P	83 ^P	249 ^P	126 ^P
P3 MLD	105	53 ^P	0 ^P	~ ^P	9 ^P	~ ^P	~ ^P	8 ^P
P7 MLD	22	12 ^P	~ ^P	0 ^P	0 ^P	0 ^P	~ ^P	0 ^P
P7 MND	760	431 ^P	~ ^P	~ ^P	131 ^P	~ ^P	200 ^P	118 ^P

Source: FMED 23, JPA and DMICP

¹ Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014

² MDS and P Grade are taken at point of discharge or 1 September 2015 for personnel still on strength (as at 1 September 2015)

³ Table only includes personnel graded as MLD or MND and P3 or P7 at relevant point

⁴ Excludes Non Freezing Cold Injuries

⁵ Includes all cause coded discharges not included in the Non Freezing Cold Injury, Noise Induced Hearing Loss or Musculoskeletal disorders and injuries categories

^P indicates a provisional data point

3. Please note that for 2014 MOD are not able to centrally determine the medical cause of discharge for some personnel; we are currently reviewing our processes in order to minimise the number of records for which this is the case.
4. PULHHEEMS data are compiled by MOD from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) data warehouse. The DMICP programme commenced during 2007 and comprises an integrated primary Health Record (iHR) for clinical use and a pseudo-anonymised central data warehouse. Prior to this data warehouse, medical records were kept locally, at each individual medical centre.
5. The Physical Capacity (P Grade) is used to indicate an individual's overall physical and mental development, his or her potential for physical training and suitability for employment worldwide
6. The meaning of each 'P' grade is detailed below;
 - a. P2 - Medically fit for unrestricted Service worldwide. This grade will attract a JMES deployment standard of medically fully deployable (MFD).
 - b. P3 - Medically fit for duty with minor employment limitations. This grade will attract a JMES deployment standard of medically limited deployability (MLD).
 - c. P7 - Medically fit for duty with major employment limitations. This grade will normally attract a JMES deployment standard of MND, or exceptionally MLD.
7. Service personnel with medical conditions or fitness issues which affect their ability to perform their duties are referred to a medical board for a medical examination and review of their

medical grading. The patient may be downgraded, to allow for treatment and rehabilitation. Medically downgraded personnel are those personnel who have been assessed by a medical board and subsequently awarded a Medical Deployability Standard (MDS) of either Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) or Medically Non Deployable (MND)

8. MLD personnel are medically fit for duty with minor employment limitations. MLD personnel may have a medical condition or functional limitation that prevents the meeting of all Medically Fully Deployable (MFD) requirements. In accordance with Joint Service Publication 950 Leaflet 6-7-2 (Nov 09), "a grade of MLD requires a risk assessment to be carried out for each deployment and the decision on that deployment will depend on the medical condition, individual function, the proposed employment, length of the deployment and the medical support available".
9. MND personnel are medically fit for duty with major employment limitations or are medically unfit for Service. MND personnel have a medical condition or functional limitation that prevents the meeting of all MLD requirements. They may require continued medical care, long term medication and access to secondary care facilities.

COURSE ACRONYMS FROM DIE/2014

SCBC (SAA) - Section Commander's Battle Course (Skill At Arms)
SBSC (Tac) -Section Commander's Battle Course (Tactics)
CVR(T) – Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked)
AV(W) – Armoured Vehicle (Wheeled), Driver and Maintenance Instructor
GPMG SF Sect (General Purpose Machine Gun, Sustained Fire, Section Commander)
AA Tailor Class – All Arms Tailor Class 1/2

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO HOLD APPOINTMENT (OR - REGULAR)

Specialisation	PTE	LEPL	CPL	Sgt	CMSF	WO2	WO1
<p>Rifle</p> <p>Armoured Infantry Gunnery</p> <p>Armoured Infantry DMI</p> <p>Armoured Vehicle (Wheelset) DMI</p> <p>Light Recon</p> <p>Armoured Infantry Recon</p> <p>Sniper</p> <p>Machine Gun</p> <p>Janitor</p> <p>Mortarman</p> <p>Assault Pioneer</p> <p>Specialist</p> <p>INSUBSP/STAR</p> <p>M*</p> <p>Tutor</p> <p>Highland Drummer</p> <p>Drum Major</p> <p>Drum Major (B/Sgt)</p> <p>Drum Major (Private)</p> <p>PTI</p> <p>GN</p> <p>CI OGS Horse</p>	<p>CIC</p> <p>Weapon Operator</p> <p>Weapon Driver</p> <p>AV (W) Platform Driver</p> <p>Race Participant</p> <p>Driver of Van platform if applicable</p> <p>Race Participant</p> <p>CVR(T) Gunner/Driver</p> <p>Sniper</p> <p>GPMS (S/F) Operator</p> <p>Janitor Gunner</p> <p>8 inch Mortarman</p> <p>Assault Pioneer Basic</p> <p>AV Reconnaissance Specialist</p> <p>Tactical Intelligence Course</p> <p>Category C + E Driver</p> <p>All Arms Basic Tutor</p> <p>Piper Class 2</p> <p>Highland Drummer Class 2 Elementary Drummer</p> <p>Drum Major of Biggie Class 2</p> <p>No. 100</p> <p>All Arms Physical Training Instructor Class 2</p> <p>All Arms Storeman</p> <p>Basic Military Evaluation Course</p>	<p>No additional qualification required</p> <p>Weapon Gunner/Command</p> <p>Weapon Driver / Command</p> <p>AV (W) Platform Driver / Command</p> <p>Commander of Vehicle Platform if applicable</p> <p>CVR(T) Gunner/Command</p> <p>Sniper</p> <p>GPMS (S/F) Operator</p> <p>Janitor Gunner/Observer / Controller</p> <p>8 inch Mortarman</p> <p>Assault Pioneer Basic Soldier</p> <p>All Reconnaissance Specialist</p> <p>Tactical Intelligence Course</p> <p>Category C + E Driver</p> <p>All Arms Basic Tutor</p> <p>Piper Class 2</p> <p>Highland Drummer Class 2 Elementary Drummer</p> <p>Drum Major of Biggie Class 2</p> <p>No. 100</p> <p>All Arms Physical Training Instructor Class 2</p> <p>All Arms Storeman</p> <p>Basic Military Evaluation Course</p>	<p>SCBC (SAA)</p> <p>SCBC (Tac)</p> <p>Regional Instructor Gunnery (RIC) Weapon or CVR(T) Weapon or CVR(T) Driving & Maintenance Inspector</p> <p>AV (W) Driving & Maintenance Instructor</p> <p>SCBC (SAA)</p> <p>SCBC (Tac)</p> <p>CVR(T) Crew Commander</p> <p>SCBC (SAA)</p> <p>SCBC (Tac)</p> <p>GPMS SF Sect (Tac) Command Course</p> <p>Janitor Det Comd</p> <p>8 inch Mortar NCO Standard</p> <p>Assault Pioneer Section Commander</p> <p>Regional Signals Detachment Commander</p> <p>Tactical Intelligence Course</p> <p>Defence AT Junior Management and Accounting or Defence B Vehicle Inspection and Refuelling Operator</p> <p>All Arms Basic Tutor</p> <p>Piper Class 1</p> <p>Highland Drummer Class 2 Intermediate & Instructor Drummer</p> <p>Flute or Bagpipe Class 2</p> <p>All Arms Unit Custody Staff Course</p> <p>All Arms Physical Training Instructor Class 1</p> <p>All Arms Store Accountant</p> <p>Advanced Infantry Evaluation Course</p>	<p>Use Fire Tactical Training (Field Firing Qualification) (LFTT) (FFQ)</p> <p>PSBC (Tac)</p> <p>Regional Instructor Gunnery (RIC) Weapon or CVR(T) and Armoured Infantry Platoon Commanders Course (Tactical Phase)</p> <p>Weapon or CVR(T) Driving & Maintenance Instructor and Armoured Infantry Platoon Commanders Course (Tactical Phase)</p> <p>AV (W) Driving & Maintenance Instructor</p> <p>Light Recon Recon Section Commander</p> <p>Class Commanders Recon Course</p> <p>LFTT (FFQ)</p> <p>PSBC (Tac)</p> <p>LFTT (FFD)</p> <p>PSBC (Tac)</p> <p>Janitor Section Commander</p> <p>8 inch Mortar NCO Advanced</p> <p>Assault Pioneer Pl Sgt</p> <p>Regional Signals Advanced Systems (ROWMAN) Unit Intelligence Officer Course and Unit (STAR) (Land)</p> <p>Defence Transport Operations Course</p> <p>All Arms Tutor Class (AA Tutor Adj)</p> <p>Piper Major Certificate</p> <p>Highland Drummer Class 1 & Drum Major Certificate</p> <p>All Arms Unit Custody Staff Course</p> <p>All Arms Drill Major</p> <p>No progression past Cpl</p> <p>No progression past Cpl</p> <p>No progression past Cpl</p>	<p>All Arms Unit Company Quartermaster</p> <p>All Arms RGMS</p>		

Note