



Ministry  
of Defence

Ref: [REDACTED]

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12 February 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 27 January in which you requested the following information:

*[1] How many members of the Armed Forces are or were, on January 27th, 2015, in Detention or Imprisonment for Absence Without Leave or Desertion? [2] On January 27th, 2015, how many members of the Armed Forces, who were in Detention or Imprisonment for Absence Without Leave or Desertion, were under the age of 18 when they joined the Armed Forces? [3] How many inmates of the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester were under the age of eighteen when they joined the Armed Forces?*

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 within the Ministry of Defence. I can confirm that the MOD does hold some information within the scope of your request. The information is correct as at 27 January 2015.

In regard to Qs 1, 2 and 3, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force had no personnel that were detained within their respective custody facilities for being AWOL or for desertion.

Please be advised that for the Army, detention includes those detainees under sentence and detainees not under sentence at the MCTC Colchester and/or Service Custody facilities. For Q1, the Army had 14 personnel and 1 Royal Marine held at the MCTC, 2 Army personnel were held in other Service Custody facilities. For Q2, the Army had one member, and for Q3, the Army had nine personnel.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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 information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Personnel Secretariat