



Ministry
of Defence

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4th November 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 7th October 2016 requesting the following information:

- 1) *"The number of injuries sustained by registered nursing staff whilst on training and exercise, that were reported through MOD Health and Safety systems, Notification of Casualties and Aeromedical Evacuations, by service, for each year between 2013/14 and 2015/16".*
- 2) *"The number of injuries sustained by registered nursing staff whilst on training and exercise, that were reported through MOD Health and Safety systems, Notification of Casualties and Aeromedical Evacuations, by country of incident, for the whole time period (2013/14 – 2015/16)."*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that all of the information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

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 JSP 200: Statistics Disclosure policy, in which numbers fewer than three 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.

The information withheld was the number of injuries sustained by UK Armed Forces registered nursing staff whilst on training and exercise by Service for each financial year. In this FOI response, it was possible to provide the overall numbers separately by Service and by financial year of the injuries sustained by UK Armed Forces registered nursing staff whilst on training and exercise.

- Between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2016, **134** injuries were sustained by UK Armed Forces registered nursing staff whilst on training and exercise. Please note that a nurse could sustain multiple injuries in the same incident. In this FOI response, an injured nurse has been counted once for each incident.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces registered nursing staff¹, Injuries² sustained whilst on training and exercise, by Service, numbers
1 April 2013 – 31 March 2016

Service Type	Number of Injuries
All	134
Royal Navy ³	73
Army	52
RAF	9

Source: Notification of Casualties (NOTICAS); MOD Health and Safety databases; Aeromedical Evacuations.
Footnotes:

1. Registered nursing staff includes Regular personnel and Reservist Personnel.
2. Please note that a nurse could sustain multiple injuries in the same incident. In this FOI response, an injured nurse has been counted once for each incident.
3. Royal Navy includes Royal Marines.

Table 2: UK Armed Forces registered nursing staff¹, Injuries² sustained whilst on training and exercise, by financial year, numbers
1 April 2013 – 31 March 2016

Financial Year	Number of Injuries
All	134
2013/14	17
2014/15	12
2015/16	105

Source: Notification of Casualties (NOTICAS); MOD Health and Safety databases; Aeromedical Evacuations.
Footnotes:

1. Registered nursing staff includes Regular personnel and Reservist Personnel.
2. Please note that a nurse could sustain multiple injuries in the same incident. In this FOI response, an injured nurse has been counted once for each incident.

Table 3: UK Armed Forces registered nursing staff¹, Injuries² sustained whilst on training and exercise, by country of incident, numbers
1 April 2013 – 31 March 2016

Country of Incident	Number of Injuries
All	134
Canada	~
France	5
Germany	3
Turkey	~
USA	~
UK	43
Not Recorded	79

Source: Notification of Casualties (NOTICAS); MOD Health and Safety databases; Aeromedical Evacuations.
Footnotes:

1. Registered nursing staff includes Regular personnel and Reservist Personnel.
 2. Please note that a nurse could sustain multiple injuries in the same incident. In this FOI response, an injured nurse has been counted once for each incident.
- ~ Data presented as "~" has been suppressed in accordance with Defence Statistics rounding policy.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

Health and Safety

MOD personnel report health and safety incidents using a variety of reporting mechanisms. Since 2005, Armed Forces personnel and civilians report incidents to Incident Notification Cells or via their on-site Safety, Health, Environment and Fire (SHEF) advisors. Defence Statistics Health then collate this data into a single Health and Safety dataset. The data presented cover incidents which include any person whose injury was recorded on the below MOD health and safety systems:

- a. Army Incident Notification Cell (AINC) as at 8 July 2016
- b. Accident and Incident Recording System (AIRS) as at 8 July 2016
- c. Defence Equipment & Support Incident Notification Cell (DINC) as at 7 July 2016
- d. Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIOINC) as at 7 July 2016
- e. Joint Forces Command (JFC) as at 8 July 2016
- f. Head Office and Corporate Services (HOCS) as at 8 July 2016
- g. Naval Service Incident Notification Cell (NSINC) as at 8 July 2016
- h. Defence Electronics and Components Agency (DECA) as at 1 October 2015
- i. Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) as at 7 October 2015

Figures are for Training/Exercise and Adventure Training activities.

Adventure Training injuries are defined as resulting from adventure training activities (i.e. when part of an exercise or training course) such as skiing, rock climbing, parachuting and mountain biking. Please note that Defence Statistics Health cannot distinguish between regulated and unregulated adventure training from the data provided.

Training/Exercise injuries are defined as resulting from activities related to being on exercise, routine training or participating in organised physical training. This may also include non-battlefield injuries sustained on operations.

All the 'unknown country of incident' are from the health and safety systems. There are known data quality issues with health and safety reporting due to reliance on the individual reporting the incident disclosing all the required information.

These numbers may change over time if reporting of incidents takes place after the last collation of data from the H&S systems.

Defence Statistics (Health) compiles Health and Safety statistics on behalf of Defence Safety and Environment Authority Corporate Policy and Assurance (DSEA-CPA). An Official Statistic publication 'MOD Health and Safety Statistics Annual Report' is released each year providing the number of reported injury and ill health incidents to UK Armed Forces personnel, Ministry of Defence (MOD) civilian employees and other civilians that were recorded on the MOD's Health and Safety recording systems. This is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-health-and-safety-statistics-index>.

NOTICAS

NOTICAS is the name for the formalised system of reporting casualties within the UK Armed Forces. The NOTICAS reports raised for casualties contain information on how seriously medical staff judge their condition to be. They are not strictly medical categories but are designed to give an indication of the severity of the injury or illness to inform what the individual's next of kin are told.

Aeromedical Evacuations

Defence Statistics receive Aeromedical Evacuation records fortnightly from the Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centre (AECC) at RAF Brize Norton.

Aeromedical Evacuation is the medically supervised movement of patients to and between medical facilities by air transportation. The RAF Aeromedical Evacuation Service provides the worldwide patient air movement capability for Defence 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Patients are risk assessed prior to flight, and when necessary, trained medical teams are provided to deliver care in the air.

Joint Personnel Administration

Demographic information has been extracted from Joint Personnel Administration (JPA). JPA is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK Armed Forces Personnel. Demographic information is correct at the earliest date a person appears on any of the data sources.

Data Suppression

The tables in this FOI response have been scrutinised to ensure individual identities have not been revealed inadvertently. In line with JSP 200 (March 2016), and in keeping with the Office for National Statistics Guidelines, all numbers less than three have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there is only one cell in a row or column that is less than three, the next smallest number (or numbers where there are tied values) has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

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 you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)