



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
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Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: [REDACTED]

3 September 2015

Dear Mr Barlow Brown

Thank you for your email of 5 August requesting the following information:

1. *The current number of soldiers serving time at the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester, Essex, otherwise known as MCTC?*
2. *The average number of military personnel (broken down into Army, Navy and Airforce if possible) that are sent to the centre each year for "corrective training".*
3. *The amount of that one would expect to spend at the MCTC, or more specifically the average amount of time one would serve for a particular sentence? For example, going AWOL, assault, being drunk and disorderly.*
4. *The amount of under-18s that are undergoing "corrective training" at the centre?*

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, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information you have requested can be found below. The rest of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at Section 21 (information accessible to the applicant by other means) of the FOIA. Where Section 21 has been applied, links to the information available on the internet have been provided.

1. As of 6 August 2015 there were 44 individuals under sentence of detention at the MCTC.
2. The average numbers of Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force sent to the MCTC under sentence of detention each year are: Army 424, Royal Navy/Royal Marines 28 and Royal Air Force 7. These averages are based on three years of actual figures, from 2012 to 2014.
3. The amount of time an individual could expect to be sentenced to detention depends not only on the offense, but the severity and circumstances. The range of punishments available and sentencing guidelines are set out in the Manual of Service Law (JSP830 Volume 1), Chapters 13-14.

The full manual can be found on the internet:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/manual-of-service-law-msl>

Chapter 13 - Summary hearing sentencing and punishments:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348831/20140826-Ch13-Summary_Hearing_Sentencing_Punishments_AL29.pdf

Chapter 14 - The summary hearing sentencing guide:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/356032/20140915-Chapter14_AL30.pdf

4. As at 6 August there were no under 18s in detention at the MCTC

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>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat