



Ministry  
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2015/02936

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14 April 2015

Dear

Thank you for your email of 12 March 2015 requesting to following information:

*“Following the successful treatment of [redacted] I would like to know if the MoD and NHS will be offering this new intense oxygen treatment - Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment - to all injured soldiers.*

*As a treatment, it's cheaper than the drugs which are prescribed and beneficial for all injuries including PTSD.*

*In addition, I would also like to know how many soldiers injured in Afghanistan and Iraq have been medically discharged from the Army.”*

Your enquiry has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) can confirm that it holds information within the scope of your enquiry.

The MOD uses hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) where it is clinically indicated for use in line with national guidelines set by NICE. It is not currently used for the rehabilitation of neurological, complex trauma or musculoskeletal injuries.

The techniques MOD employs for the rehabilitation of personnel are continuously reviewed in line with emerging technologies, research, and national guidance. Should a new approach prove successful, it will be considered as part of that review process.

[redacted] has undergone HBOT in a trial offered by the private Castle Craig Hospital in Scotland. While the MOD is unable to comment on an individual patient's treatment, the MOD can confirm that it did not fund [redacted] HBOT.

Between 7 October 2001 (the start of Operations in Afghanistan) and 31 March 2014 (the latest date for which medical discharges information is available), 970 UK Service personnel have been medically discharged following their injuries in Afghanistan and Iraq. Of these, 696 were injured in Afghanistan and 274 were injured in Iraq. Please note that personnel may not have been medically discharged as a result of their injury received in Afghanistan or Iraq. The numbers of injuries presented include Battle Injuries and Non-Battle Injuries, Natural Causes have been excluded.

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 the Headquarters of the Surgeon General 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd 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 FOIA. 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,

Headquarters of the Surgeon General