



**Defence Statistics (Health)  
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13 January 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 18 December 2016 requesting the following information:

*"Under the FOI act could you please provide information on the following: The numbers of UK Armed Forces personnel who have been identified as MND, MLD and MFD since 1 January 2012, split by Service."*

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 the information in scope of your request is held by the MOD.

Between 1 January 2012 and 1 November 2016:

- Of 34,637 Royal Navy personnel in Service over this period:
  - 32,466 personnel held a Medical Deployability Standard (MDS) of Medically Fully Deployable (MFD).
  - 5,780 personnel held an MDS of Medically Limited Deployable (MLD).
  - 12,175 personnel held an MDS of Medically Not Deployable (MND).
- Of 10,035 Royal Marines personnel in Service over this period:
  - 9,448 personnel held an MDS of MFD.
  - 1,499 personnel held an MDS of MLD.
  - 3,229 personnel held an MDS of MND.
- Of 132,859 Army personnel in Service over this period:
  - 116,768 personnel held an MDS of MFD.
  - 38,794 personnel held an MDS of MLD.
  - 40,998 personnel held an MDS of MND.
- Of 46,293 RAF personnel in Service over this period:
  - 43,495 personnel held an MDS of MFD.
  - 6,470 personnel held an MDS of MLD.
  - 15,527 personnel held an MDS of MND.

Over this time period, some personnel will have held multiple MDS and therefore will be included once in each category that they have held. Likewise, some personnel will have been in different Services. This means that a sum of the categories will be greater than the total number of personnel in Service over the period.

As you have requested for information regarding MDS over time, please be aware that the proportions of personnel in these MDS categories over the time period are **not** indicative of the MDS of the UK Armed Forces at any point in time. The MDS of the UK Armed Forces is usually calculated as a “snapshot” in time so as to understand the actual deployability of individual Services.

Service personnel with medical conditions or fitness issues which affect their ability to perform their duties are assessed in Primary Care or 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 or in primary care and subsequently awarded an MDS of either MLD or MND. The MDS awarded can be on a temporary or permanent basis. The definitions of MDS categories are as follows:

**Medically Fully Deployable (MFD):** Personnel medically fit for duty with no employment limitations.

**Medically Limited Deployable (MLD):** Personnel 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.

**Medically Not Deployable (MND):** Personnel medically fit for duty with major employment limitations. MND personnel are not fit to deploy on Operations but may be deployable on UK based exercises and should be able to work effectively for at least 32.5 hours per week.

If you would like further clarification or explanation on the statistics provided in this FOI response, please contact the MOD press office on 020 7218 3253.

#### *Medical Downgrading*

The number of medical downgradings has been compiled using the Defence Statistics “derived” field which utilises a combination of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) and Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) MDS.

Joint Personnel Administration is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK Armed Forces personnel and is used to gather information on a person’s service and MDS.

DMICP is a centralised data warehouse. It is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. DMICP was rolled out in 2007 and legacy medical data for currently serving personnel was migrated across during rollout.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: [DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk).

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

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)