



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 9th August 2016 requesting the following information:

“Under the FOI act could you provide details of the number of service personnel killed or injured while taking part in military or adventurous training in the Brecon Beacons national park in the last four years.”

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 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 Defence Statistics rounding policy (May 2009), the injury figure presented has been rounded to the nearest five 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.

- Between 1st April 2012 and 30th June 2016, a minimum of **469** UK Armed Forces personnel were injured whilst taking part in military training/exercise and adventure training within the Brecon Beacons National Park.
- Between 1st April 2012 and 9th August 2016, **four** UK Armed Forces personnel were killed whilst taking part in military training/exercise and adventure training within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

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

Injuries

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

The data presented cover incidents that occurred in the Brecon Beacons training areas, as identified by searching for the following four search terms in the amalgamated Health and Safety database: 'Brecon', 'Sennybridge', 'Black Mountains', and 'SENTA'. Please note that due to the free text nature of this data it is possible that there may be additional records that used other relevant terms, and therefore the figures supplied should be considered a minimum.

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 mechanism may also include non-battlefield injuries sustained on operations.

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>.

In addition, NOTICAS (Notification of Casualty) records were searched for cases of injury that were not recorded in the Health and Safety database. The following search terms were used: 'Brecon' and 'Sennybridge'. Please note that due to the free text nature of this data it is possible that there may be additional records that used other relevant terms, and therefore the figures supplied should be considered a minimum.

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.

Deaths

Defence Statistics (Health) compiles the Department's authoritative deaths database for all UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service going back to 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

Figures are for tri-Service regular and reservist 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, 2nd 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)