



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

Facsimile: +44 (0)1179 319634

E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-
FOI@mod.uk

Ref: FOI2015/04158

[Redacted]

3 June 2015

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 4 May 2015 requesting the following information:

In a previous FoI response [FOI2014/02651] you provided a table relating to cancer deaths of Army veterans who had served in Gulf War 1. Could you provide me with an updated version of this table?

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. The information you requested is enclosed.

As at 31 December 2014, **293** UK Army veterans of the Gulf (1991) conflict had died due to Cancer (Malignant neoplasm). **Table 1** presents a breakdown of these deaths by all major cancer sites, and specific cancer sites where there have been at least five deaths amongst the UK Army Gulf veteran cohort.

Table 1: UK Gulf (1991) Army veterans, deaths due to Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms)¹, 1 April 1991 - 31 December 2014, numbers

ICD code	Cancer site	Number
C00-C99	Malignant Neoplasms (MN)	293
C00-C14	MN of lip, oral cavity and pharynx	17
C9	MN of tonsil	6
C15-C26, C48	MN of digestive organs and peritoneum	90
C15	MN of oesophagus	24
C16	MN of stomach	10
C18	MN of colon	12
C20	MN of rectum	9
C22	MN of liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	6
C25	MN of pancreas	21
C30-C39	MN of respiratory and intrathoracic organs	49
C34	MN of bronchus and lung	44
C40-C45, C47, C49-C50	MN of bone, connective tissue, skin and breast	24
C43	Malignant melanoma of skin	13
C50	MN of breast	5
C51-C68	MN of genitourinary organs	34
C61	MN of prostate	8
C64	MN of kidney, except renal pelvis	14
C67	MN of bladder	6
C69-C80	MN of other and unspecified sites	39
C71	MN of brain	22
C80	Malignant neoplasm without specification of site	12
C81-C96	MN of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissue	39
C81-C85, C91.4, C96	Lymphomas	17
C82-C85, C91.4, C96	Non-Hodgkins lymphoma	14
C91-C95 excl C91.4	Leukaemias	17
C92	Myeloid leukaemia	11
C97	Malignant neoplasms of independent (primary) multiple sites	1

¹ Major cancer sites and specific sites with at least 5 deaths in the Army Gulf cohort

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

Gulf 1 veterans consist of Regular/Reservist personnel deployed to any Gulf state between 1 September 1990 and 30 June 1991. These data do not include civilian personnel employed by the MOD (including the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Naval Services, Marine, RAF and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI), MOD civil servants), by other Government Departments, or civilians working for Defence Contractors, the media or charitable and humanitarian organisations.

Army personnel have been identified from the Service recorded at the time of the Gulf 1 conflict.

Defence Statistics receive death certificates for members of the study (Gulf cohort) on a monthly basis from two sources. England and Wales's death certificates are provided by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care and Scottish death certificates are provided by the General Register Office (GRO) for Scotland.

Death certificates and members and postings updates for Northern Ireland are not currently received. The Central Services Agency produces all coded death information for medical research in Northern Ireland. It is hoped that Defence Statistics will be able to receive regular updates in line with England and Wales, and Scotland in the near future for Northern Ireland to improve the timeliness of information on flagged individuals in Northern Ireland.

Defence Statistics also receive quarterly 'members and postings' updates from the NHS Information Centre and GRO Scotland. These contain the latest known situation for each study

member, i.e. whether they are currently registered with a GP, whether they have died, or whether they have emigrated. This information is required so that individuals who have become lost to follow up can be identified.

Deaths and cancer registrations have been coded to the World Health Organisation's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision (ICD-10), 1992. Individuals with Cancer (Malignant neoplasm) have a death code between C00-C99.

Defence Statistics publish annual statistics on all causes of deaths that occurred among the UK veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf conflict, which can be found on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/causes-of-deaths-that-occurred-among-the-uk-veterans-of-the-199091-gulf-conflict>.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering statistics on deaths that occurred among the UK veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf conflict and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: 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). 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)