



# Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2015/07390

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22 September 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 25 August 2015 requesting the following information:

*I have found the Op Herrick Casualty and fatalities statistics dated 7th Oct 2001 > 13th Dec 2014 on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) but am unable to determine from this data the gender split.*

*Information Requested:  
The gender split for the following:*

*Number of Afghanistan UK Military and Civilian casualties  
Casualties (excluding natural causes)*

*\*Very seriously injured or wounded- data indicates a total of 306*

*\*Seriously injured or wounded- data indicates a total of 310*

*Field Hospital Admissions*

*\* Wounded in Action- data indicates a total of 2188*

*Number of Afghanistan UK Military and Civilian fatalities*

*\*Killed in Action- data indicates a total of 353*

*\*Died of wounds-data indicates a total of 51*

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.

Between 7 October 2001 and 30 November 2014 (the date that Op HERRICK ended) the gender split for UK Military and Civilian casualties and fatalities is as follows:

- Of the 306 Very Seriously Injured (VSI) UK Military and Civilian casualties **one** was female and **305** were male.
- Of the 310 Seriously Injured (SI) UK Military and Civilian casualties **three** were female and **307** were male.

- Of the 2,188 Wounded in Action UK Military and Civilian casualties admitted to the Field Hospital **18** were female, **2,153** were male and **17** were unknown<sup>1</sup>.
- Of the 353 UK Military and Civilian fatalities who were Killed in Action **two** were female and **351** were male.
- Of the 51 UK Military and Civilian fatalities that Died of Wounds **one** was female and **50** were male. **One** additional male died of their wounds in July 2015.

Casualties included in the VSI/SI numbers and the Field Hospital numbers should not be added together as a casualty may appear in both sets of data.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it useful to note the following:

### Initial NOTICAS

Notification of Casualty (or "NOTICAS") is the name for the formalised system of reporting casualties within the UK Armed Forces. NOTICAS information is available from the start of each operation. The NOTICAS reports raised for casualties contain information on how seriously medical staff on operations 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. The NOTICAS system medically categorises casualties as either:

- Very Seriously Injured (VSI) – A patient is termed 'very seriously injured' when his/her injury is of such severity that life is imminently endangered.
- Seriously Injured (SI) – A patient is termed 'seriously injured' when his/her injury is of such severity that there is cause for immediate concern but there is no imminent danger to life.

### Field Hospital Admissions

The UK had a Field Hospital at Camp Bastion, this provided deployed hospital care to coalition forces and, when indicated, Afghan National Security Forces and local nationals. Associated support elements included Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Medicine, Intensive Care Unit, and Medium and Low dependency nursing care beds. Advanced diagnostic support was provided by a laboratory and an imaging department that includes two CT Scanners. The exact clinical contribution is constantly under review, being mission-tailored to provide the best mix of specialties and support services.

Defence Statistics received information on the patients who were admitted to the UK Field Hospital at Camp Bastion from the J97 Returns. This J97 return also included those patients admitted to the following two locations:

- The HQ of Multinational Brigade (South) in Kandahar maintained a Field Hospital which provided support for ISAF and Coalition personnel. This facility included additional capabilities to that of the Role 2 including specialist diagnostic resources and specialist surgical and medical capabilities.
- In Kabul, UK Personnel may have been admitted to either the French or Greek Field Hospital. There is also a US facility which provided physiotherapy and dentistry.

Up until 31 December 2011, Defence Statistics also received information on admissions and attendances at the UK Field Hospital at Camp Bastion from the Operational Emergency Attendance Register (OpEDAR).

An admission to the field hospital is where a patient is allocated a bed; this could be within the Ward, in Intensive Care, or Surgery. If the patient is not allocated a bed they are recorded as an attendance, they are seen and treated without the need to allocate a bed.

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<sup>1</sup> For UK Military personnel the service number provided could not be validated due to poor data quality in early data and therefore Gender could not be obtained from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. Gender was not recorded on Op HERRICK for UK Civilian personnel.

## **Killed in Action and Died of Wounds**

Operational deaths are classified at the time of death by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Cell as follows:

- a. **Killed in Action (KIA):** A battle casualty who is killed outright or who dies as a result of wounds or other injuries before reaching a medical treatment facility.
- b. **Died of Wounds (DOW):** A battle casualty who dies of wounds or other injuries received in action, after having reached a medical treatment facility. This only includes those who have died of wounds whilst under the care of Defence Medical Services.

Defence Statistics receive:

- Notifications from Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) at the time of death for all Operational deaths.
- Weekly notifications of all regular Armed Forces deaths from the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Cell (formerly the single Service casualty cells).
- Additional information on cause of death from military medical sources in the single Services.

These records are then validated against the UK's Joint Theatre Trauma Registry (JTTR), which contains information recorded by one of the UK's Trauma Nurses who attends the post mortems.

To record information on cause and circumstances of death, Defence Statistics uses the World Health Organisation's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health-related Problems 10th revision (ICD-10) as recorded by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the death certificate. In addition, Defence Statistics also record the casualty reporting categories used by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Cell, used for reporting to the Chain of Command and for notifying the next of kin and also use information recorded on the Joint Theatre Trauma Registry (JTTR) to validate data.

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Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering casualties on Contingent Operations in the UK Armed Forces 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>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)