



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2015 requesting the following information:

"I am writing to you in search in information regarding frontline casualties in Afghanistan and Iraq. I have gone through the online archives in search of more detailed casualty information, however I have not found what I am looking for.

What I need:

Detailed statistics on type of injury, severity of injury, and where on the body the injury was sustained for frontline troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. If possible, I would like to know what type of weapon system inflicted the injury."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would involve examining individual medical records, coding and categorising the nature/cause of injury fields. We have determined that to produce this information would take **more than a year** of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

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

Defence Statistics intend to publish a new official statistic on types of injury sustained by UK Service Personnel on Operations in Afghanistan on Thursday 25 February 2016.

Defence Statistics routinely publishes a number of reports which may hold some of the information you require:

Op Herrick (Afghanistan) very seriously injured and seriously injured tracking, annually
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/op-herrick-afghanistan-very-seriously-injured-and-seriously-injured-tracking-2014>

Op Herrick casualty and fatality statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/op-herrick-casualty-and-fatality-tables-2015>

Afghanistan and Iraq amputation statistics, annually (previously quarterly):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-service-personnel-amputations-financial-year-201516>

UK armed forces and UK civilian operational casualty and fatality statistics, quarterly

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-and-uk-civilian-operational-casualty-and-fatality-statistics-financial-year-20152016>

If you would like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering operational casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan 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

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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

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