



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)

Ministry of Defence

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Ref: FOI2015/05398

[Redacted]

17 July 2015

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 18 June 2015 requesting the following information:

"Could you please supply with numbers of royal Navy, Army and RAF personnel who are currently unable to deploy on operations because they have been medically down graded.

I would like the numbers of personnel in each service who are currently medically non-deployable and how many are medically limited deployable and how many have been downgraded over the last three years

I would like figures for the Royal Navy to include the Naval Service and the royal Marines."

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

Table 1 presents the number of UK Armed Forces personnel full time trained and serving against requirement¹ who were medically downgraded as limited deployable (MLD) and non-deployable (MND) as at 1 June 2015.

¹ The full time trained and serving against requirement population includes Regulars, Gurkhas and Full Time Reserve Service and excludes trainees

Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel by medical deployment standard and Service, 1 June 2015, numbers ^{1,2}.

Service	Medical Deployment Standard		
	All Downgraded	MLD	MND
All	27,970	13,480	14,490
Naval Service ²	4,740	1,910	2,830
Army	18,320	10,090	8,230
RAF	4,910	1,480	3,430

Source: DMICP, JPA

¹ Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

² Due to rounding, subtotals will not always add up to the total

There were a total of **50,130** UK Armed Forces personnel full time trained and serving against requirement medically downgraded from medically fully deployable (MFD) to either medically limited deployable (MLD) or medically not deployable (MND) for a period of time between 1 June 2012 and 1 June 2015².

- 10,190 - Naval Service³
- 28,980 - Army
- 10,970 - RAF

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

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) Medical Deployment Standard (MDS).

Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (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.

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.

Service personnel with medical conditions or fitness issues which affect their ability to perform their duties are 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 and subsequently awarded a Medical Deployability Standard (MDS) of either Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) or Medically Non Deployable (MND).

MLD personnel are 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. In accordance with Joint Service Publication 950 Leaflet 6-7-2 (Nov 09), “a grade of MLD requires a risk assessment to be carried out for each deployment and the decision on that deployment will depend on the medical condition, individual function, the proposed employment, length of the deployment and the medical support available”.

MND personnel are medically fit for duty with major employment limitations or are medically unfit for Service. MND personnel have a medical condition or functional limitation that prevents the meeting of all MLD requirements. They may require continued medical care, long term medication and access to secondary care facilities.

² Each person has been included once. Where a single person has received a medical downgrading in more than one service the service relating to the most recent downgrading was used.

³ Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data have been rounded to the nearest 10, where "-" denotes zero and "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Percentages are calculated from unrounded data.

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)