



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 12 June 2015 requesting the following information:

"Since 1 January 2009 how many members of the following have been appointed where it was known they suffered from Ankylosing Spondylitis.

- I: RAF
- II: RAF Reserves
- III: Army
- IV: Army Reserves
- V: Royal Navy
- VI: Navy Reserves
- VII: Royal Marines
- VIII: Marine Reserves"

Your enquiry has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and I can confirm that the MOD holds information within the scope of your enquiry.

Joint Service Publication 950 on Medical Policy, leaflet 6-7-4 (Medical Employment Standards Policy) states that a candidate with a history of chronic arthritis of any cause (e.g. osteo-arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis or psoriatic arthritis) or radiological evidence of arthritic changes are graded as P8 upon application to the Armed Forces, meaning they are deemed not to meet the entry criteria.

Therefore there are no recorded numbers of individuals who have enlisted with a known diagnosis of Ankylosing Spondylitis.

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 the Headquarters of the Surgeon General 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 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 FOIA. 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>.

Yours sincerely,

Headquarters of the Surgeon General