



Ministry of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 July 2015 requesting the following information:

"I would greatly appreciate any information relating to the following question:

What percentage of military personnel returning from active service in a conflict zone received treatment for a mental health condition for the individual years 2009-2014?

I am aware that information about the number of military personnel who had episodes of care at a MOD DCMH after returning from deployment in a theatre of operation is available in the UK Armed Forces mental health: Annual Summaries. However, this information does not give a percentage for this figure - it only provides a rates per 1,000 strength which I believe refers to the military as a whole (not a rate per 1,000 strength of those personnel who have returned from deployment in a theatre of operation)."

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.

The rate provided in the *UK Armed Forces Mental Health: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time 2007/08-2013/14* report is a rate per 1,000 of those personnel who have previously deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan and is not expressed as a rate of UK Armed Forces as a whole.

The percentage (rate per 100) can be calculated by dividing the rate per 1,000 by ten.

A new version of the Mental Health Annual Report was released on 30 July 2015. The percentage of UK Armed Forces personnel seen at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services for a mental disorder who had previously deployed is included in this report and can be found in Figure 11 of the additional people excel tables

(www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-mental-health-statistics-index.)

For convenience the percentages are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel assessed with a mental disorder at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services after deployment¹, 2008/09 – 2014/15. Percentage of personnel at risk².

Mental disorder		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Iraq and/or Afghanistan	%	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.7	3.0	3.1

Source: DS Database, DMICP, SSSFT, BFG

1. The data covers deployments on Operation TELIC (2003-2011) and Operation VERITAS (2001-2006) and Operation HERRICK (2001-present).

2. Percentage of personnel who have previously deployed to Iraq and/or Afghanistan.

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

UK Armed Forces personnel have access to specialist mental health services, by referrals made by their GP, provided through MOD DCMH or MOD In-patient providers. DCMH are specialised psychiatric services based on community mental health teams closely located with primary care services at MOD sites in the UK and abroad. All UK based and aero-medically evacuated Service personnel based overseas requiring in-patient admission are treated by one of eight NHS trusts in the UK which are part of a consortium headed by the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation trust (SSSFT). UK based Service personnel from British Forces Germany (BFG) were treated at Guys and St Thomas Hospital in the UK up until April 2013 and from this date, at Gilead IV hospital, Bielefeld, under a contract with Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Family Association (SSAFA) through the Limited Liability Partnership.

Defence Statistics receive data from DCMH and in-patient providers for UK regular Armed Forces personnel from the following sources :

DCMH

- a) Between 01 April 2007 and 31 March 2014, the data provided was sourced from DCMH monthly returns and thus initial diagnosis was supplied using aggregate level ICD 10 data.
- b) Between 01 April 2012 to 31 May 2014, new episodes of care data was sourced from the electronic patient record held in Defence Medical Information Capability Program (DMICP) in addition to those provided by DCMH in monthly returns.
- c) 1 June 2014 to date, new episodes of care was sourced using DMICP data

In-patient

- d) Since January 2007, SSSFT and Gilead IV hospital Bielefeld have submitted relevant in patient records.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering mental health 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health) [REDACTED]