

Background Quality Report

Royal Navy and Royal Marines Sexual Harassment Survey

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

The 2015 Royal Navy (RN) and Royal Marines (RM) Sexual Harassment Survey was commissioned to better understand the nature and extent of sexual harassment within the Naval Service (NS), the impact this has on respondents, and how effectively the NS currently prevents and manages it. The 2015 survey findings have been compared against 2009 data to enable the RN/RM to assess what additional action may need to be taken, particularly with regards to future policy changes regarding sexual harassment.

1.2 Background and Context

The Naval Service 2015 Sexual Harassment Survey was commissioned as part of a long-term programme which aims to improve the working environment for Naval personnel. Specifically, up-to-date information was required to understand personnel's experiences and attitudes towards sexual harassment within the Naval Service (NS), in order to inform sexual harassment policies and Diversity and Inclusion activities.

1.3 Methodology and Production

An anonymous postal survey was administered to all Regular RN/RM women and a stratified random sample of Regular RN/RM men between 20th July and 7th September 2015. The survey questions were based on the previous Tri-Service sexual harassment survey which was conducted in 2009. The response rate was 19%; in total, 1380 surveys were returned and processed from a sample of 7407. In 2009, the response rate was 24% with 1411 surveys returned and processed from a sample of 5871. Non-responses in 2015 were comprised of non-returns and those who did not complete Q1 to indicate their informed consent. The demographic profile of respondents and response rates by rank and gender are contained in the report Appendix.

2. Relevance

The principal user of the RN/RM Sexual Harassment Survey is the Naval Service who use the results to assess what additional action may need to be taken, particularly with regards to future policy changes regarding sexual harassment. The questions were designed specifically to meet Naval Service policy needs. The results are also likely to be of interest to the public and parliament.

3. Accuracy

As the RN/RM Sexual Harassment Survey does not achieve 100% response rates (the overall response rate achieved in 2015 was 19%) there is always the risk that those who returned questionnaires have differing views from those who did not. We assume that all non-response is Missing At Random (MAR). This means we have assumed that those people who did not return their questionnaires have (on average) the same perceptions and attitudes as those who did respond.

Response rates by rank and gender are reported in the report's Appendices, as well as the demographic profile of respondents.

4. Timeliness and Punctuality

The release date for this publication was pre-announced on the [MOD's Calendar of Upcoming Releases](#)² section of GOV.UK.

All pre-announced publication deadlines have been met.

It is important to note that the survey data collection occurred between 20th July and 7th September 2015. The report is being published 8 months after the close of fieldwork.

5. Accessibility and Clarity

This is the first time the RN/RM Sexual Harassment Survey has been published as an official statistic. The report is published on the statistics section of GOV.UK as a PDF document.

An Executive Summary of the findings is provided at pages 3-4 of the report, and an Introduction provides context and the survey methodology. The results section includes graphical representation of some of the statistics, and provides further detail about the trends in the data and draws attention to contextual information that has affected these trends.

Within the report there is further information on the methodology and advice to users of caveats in the data.

6. Coherence and Comparability

Throughout the report key differences and similarities between 2015 and 2009 RN/RM data will be presented and discussed. Due to differences in collection methodology, the RN/RM results should not be directly compared to the results of the [2015 Army Sexual Harassment survey](#).

7. References

	Reference	Website Location
1	Statistics at MOD Homepage	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/statistics
2	MOD's Timetable of Future Releases of National and Official Statistics	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-timetable-for-future-releases-of-national-and-official-statistics

8. Contact Details

Please contact NAVYPERS-NSPRTSELPSYCHSO1@mod.uk (tel 023 9262 5242) with any queries.

Last updated: 5th May 2016