



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our Reference: FOI2016/06468

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

27 July 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 22 June to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), in which you requested the following information:

- * Please disclose all types of alcohol-related offences personnel can be charged with, for example: unfitness through alcohol, exceeding alcohol limit for safety-critical duties, drink-driving etc.
- * Please provide a breakdown showing the number of personnel charged with each of the identified offences in 2014. If within the FOIA cost limit please disclose whether the personnel were with the Army, Navy or RAF.
- * Please provide a breakdown showing the number of personnel charged with each of the identified offences in 2015 and, separately, to date in 2016. If within the FOIA cost limit please disclose whether the personnel were with the Army, Navy or RAF.
- * If held, please disclose all types of alcohol-related offences personnel can be disciplined over, with breakdowns showing the number of each for 2014, 2015 and to date in 2016.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000. Following a search of our records, I can confirm that the MOD does hold information within the scope of your request. I apologise for the length of time it has taken to respond.

Under Section 21 of the FOI Act the MOD is not obliged to supply information that is reasonably accessible to the applicant, by other means. Section 42 "Criminal Conduct" of the Armed Forces Act 2006 makes it a Service Offence to do any act that is punishable by the law of England and Wales. Information relating to "all types of alcohol related offences personnel can be charged with" is therefore already available in the public domain.

The following table relates to personnel charged under Section 20 of the Armed Forces Act 2006: "Unfitness or misconduct through alcohol or drugs..." and Section 20A: "Exceeding alcohol limits for prescribed safety-critical duties...". Further information on Section 20 and Section 20A can be viewed online here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/422646/20150413-Chapter_7-Non-criminal_conduct-AL34.pdf

Please note that the way data is recorded by the MOD means that the information provided is based on the 'number of charges' rather than the 'number of personnel charged' and so does not relate to the number of individual Service personnel charged. The information provided covers the time period 1 Jan 2014 to 8 July 2016 (inclusive) and is irrespective of the outcome of the charge. Please also note that in respect of the charge of "Unfitness or misconduct through alcohol or drugs", to identify whether the offence was specifically alcohol or drug related would require further detailed investigation of each individual record. Which, if undertaken, would be likely to exceed the FOI cost limit.

Personnel charged under Section 20 and Section 20A of the Armed Forces Act 2006

	Royal Navy	Royal Marines	Army	Royal Air Force	Total by Year
2014	180	20	270	20	490
2015	150	20	260	30	460
2016	60	10	140	20	230


In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, the figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10. When rounding up to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you.

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, 2nd Floor, Zone N, 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,


Defence People Secretariat