



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)  
Ministry of Defence  
Oak 0 West (#6028)  
Abbey Wood North  
Bristol BS34 8JH  
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

Facsimile: +44 (0)1179 319634

E-mail: [DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk)

Reference: FOI2016/10961

13 December 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 15 November 2016 requesting the following information:

*"Under the FOI Act can you provide details of the number of service personnel who have been identified as being:*

- 1. Medically Non Deployable*
- 2. Medically Limited Deployable*
- 3 Medically Fully Deployable.*

*If possible could you also provide details the number of service personal defined as non, limited or fully medical deployable, whose injuries relate to their service in Iraq and Afghanistan,*

*I would like figures broken by by arm or service from 2012 onwards.*

*Could you also provide a definition for each of the above categories."*

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 of the information in scope of your request is held by the MOD.

Information on UK Armed Forces that are defined as Medically Not Deployable (MND), Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) and Medically Fully Deployable (MFD), and personnel injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan is held by the MOD. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. To identify episodes of downgrading that were due to injuries sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan would require a review of individual patient records and this would exceed one year of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

The following information is readily available and could be provided within FOI cost limits:

- The numbers of UK Armed Forces personnel who have been identified as MND, MLD and MFD since 1 January 2012, split by Service. (Please note that personnel may be counted multiple times as they will appear in each category (MND, MLD and MFD) that they have been awarded over the time period).

- Definitions of MND, MLD and MFD.

You may also find it useful to note that the MOD tracks personnel Very Seriously Injured (VSI) and Seriously Injured (SI) on operations in Afghanistan. The most recent Official Statistic (covering the period 8 October 2007 to 30 September 2015) can be found here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/495231/20160126 - Tracking Oct 07 - Sep 15 SI VSI Op Casualties - O.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/495231/20160126_-_Tracking_Oct_07_-_Sep_15_SI_VSI_Op_Casualties_-_O.pdf).

Included in this report is information on the Medical Deployability Standard of personnel that were VSI or SI in Afghanistan and who remain in Service. However, please note that personnel identified as MND or MLD may be medically downgraded for reasons other than the injury which they sustained in Afghanistan.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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)