

Proposed merging of the “Annual UK regular armed forces land transport accident deaths” and “Deaths in the UK regular armed forces” Official Statistics

SUMMARY

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently publishes the ‘Annual UK regular armed forces land transport accident deaths’ Official Statistic on an annual basis. We are now seeking external users’ views on merging this release with the ‘Deaths in the UK regular armed forces’ National Statistic.

BACKGROUND

The ‘Deaths in the UK regular armed forces’ National Statistic (referred to as the Overall Deaths Statistic) provides summary information on deaths whilst in Service in the latest ten years amongst UK Regular Armed Forces. It includes overall numbers and rates of deaths by Service, and causes of deaths (including the Land Transport Accident category). The release also compares these mortality rates to those observed in the UK general population.

The ‘Annual UK regular armed forces land transport accident deaths’ Official Statistic (referred to as the LTA Statistic) provides summary statistics on Land Transport Accident (LTA) deaths that occurred amongst UK Regular Armed Forces. The LTA Statistic includes rates of deaths by characteristics such as Service, age, duty status, and vehicle type. It also compares the rates with those observed in the UK general population.

The deaths in the LTA Statistic are a subset of those in the Overall Deaths Statistic, and the top-level numbers are already provided in the Overall Deaths Statistic. Hence there is duplication of content and descriptions of methodology between the two releases.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE

Defence Statistics is proposing to merge the two releases so that the LTA Statistic forms an annex of the Overall Deaths Statistic. In merging the two releases some of the LTA Statistics content will be removed. The reasons for this proposal are:

- a. The LTA Statistic was originally released in July 2013 by Defence Statistics to investigate the category, as it was the second largest cause of deaths between 2008 and 2012. The most recent release shows that the rate of LTA deaths has fallen in recent years, and has been at a low of 8 per 100,000 since 2015.
- b. Interest in this annual publication is low. This is evidenced by the number of web hits for the publication being below 650 in both 2015/16 and 2016/17. This perhaps suggests that such detailed content is no longer warranted, and a more focused summary could better balance user needs and resourcing.
- c. Defence Statistics will continue to produce a streamlined version of the LTA Statistic, included as an annex to the Overall Deaths Statistic.
- d. Merging the releases will create a simplified user experience. There will be one release, making it easier for users to find the statistics they need, rather than referencing two separate documents which contain duplication. In addition, the LTA analysis will be accessible to all of the users of the Overall Deaths Statistic (which saw 13,000 unique page views in 2016/17).
- e. Placing analysis of LTA deaths in an annex sets a precedent for focussing on a particular area of deaths within an annex. In future years, Defence Statistics could use this to add other ‘spotlight’ features if particular areas become significant in the data.

- f. There will be a reduction in the resource taken to produce the statistics by 0.05 FTE each year. This is due to both a reduction in the content produced, and the benefit of only producing and publishing one large report.

TIMINGS

This consultation will run for **four weeks**, from **22 June to 20 July**. This consultation complies with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultations.

As long as there is no objection during the consultation period, the cessation of the report will proceed as planned and the March 2018 releases will be merged.

RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

Considering the reasons for the proposed changes, we now invite the feedback of our external data users and are keen to know what impact the reduction of frequency of this publication will have on you.

Ways to respond

If you have any comments on the proposed changes please send:

By email to: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

By post to:

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

When sending your comments please include contact details (your name and either e mail address, postal address or telephone number) so that we can follow up if clarification is needed.

If there are any issues experienced when using the above email address please forward any comments to: DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Pubs@mod.uk