

Proposed cessation of the “UK Armed Forces Mental Health Mid-year report” Official Statistic and cessation of the Episodes Tables found in the separate Excel file of the ‘UK Armed Forces Mental Health: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time’ Official Statistic

SUMMARY

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently publishes the UK Armed Forces Mental Health Mid-year report on an annual basis and publish the Episode Tables alongside the UK Armed Forces Mental Health: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time report via an excel worksheet. We are now seeking external users’ views on ceasing the mid-year publication and the production of the episode tables alongside the annual summary report.

BACKGROUND (Mid-year report)

The ‘UK Armed Forces Mental Health Mid-year report’ Official Statistic provides statistical information on mental health in the UK Armed Forces. It summarises all initial assessments for a new episode of care among Service personnel at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services (Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) for outpatient care, and all admissions to the MOD’s in-patient care contractor) by quarter.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE (Mid-year report)

Defence Statistics is proposing the cessation of this Official Statistic as:

- a. Following the release of the mid-year report, there have been no FOI requests or requests for further information related to the report, this in contrast to the annual report which has more web hits, interest and media articles generated following its release in June. The cessation of reporting would allow for the development of additional analyses on mental health to improve the evidence base available.
- b. As data is presented quarterly it is difficult to interpret findings because the numbers are subject to variation over time.

BACKGROUND (Episode tables)

The Episode Tables found in the separate excel file of the ‘UK Armed Forces Mental Health: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time’ Official Statistic provide statistical information on the number of episodes of care at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services by financial year.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE (Episode tables)

Defence Statistics is proposing the cessation of these tables as producing the episodes of care tables is a time consuming process when recent Freedom of Information requests, Parliamentary Questions and internal MOD requests are showing interest lies with the number of people seen at MOD DCMHs and in-patient providers not the episodes of care. There would be a significant resource saving if we were to stop the publication of the additional episode excel tables and limit the information on episodes in the annual report to the tables contained within the main body of the report itself.

Please note that the MOD will continue to monitor mental health in the UK Armed Forces through the annual report and internal updates.

TIMINGS

This consultation will run for six weeks, from 15 June to 27 July. This consultation complies with the Government’s Code of Practice on Consultations.

As long as there are no objections during the consultation period, it is proposed that the next mid-year report due in December 2017 and the Episodes tables due in June 2018 will not be produced

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 cessation 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

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

By post to:

Defence Statistics (Health)
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West, #6028
Abbey Wood North
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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.