



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI2017/07713

30 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 2 August 2017 requesting the following information:

"1) The number of UK Regular Armed Forces personnel as at 1 April for the years 2010 to 2017 by Medical Deployability Standard (MDS), Service and year.

2) The number of UK Regular Armed Forces personnel medically downgraded (MLD or MND) due to Mental and Behavioural Disorders or Diseases of Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands and Jaws (both chapters within the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, version 10) as at 1 June 2016, 1 January 2017 and 1 April 2017, by MDS and Service.

3) A list of other categories for which UK Regular Armed Forces personnel medically are classified when downgraded (MLD or MND)."

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held by the MOD.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces Personnel¹ in Service, by Service, Medical Deployability Standard² and time point, numbers^{3,4}
1 April 2010 to 1 April 2017

	1 April 2010	1 April 2011	1 April 2012	1 April 2013	1 April 2014	1 April 2015	1 April 2016	1 April 2017
All personnel	177,897	176,816	170,010	160,712	150,891	144,117	140,432	138,844
MFD	143,253	143,278	137,866	130,770	122,616	116,125	112,024	111,026
MLD	18,101	18,828	17,666	15,464	13,811	13,401	13,551	13,860
MND	13,615	13,800	14,211	14,352	14,396	14,547	14,822	13,916
Naval Service	35,502	35,426	33,287	31,423	30,509	30,058	29,702	29,584
MFD	28,366	29,793	28,428	26,799	25,866	25,338	24,850	24,793
MLD	1,843	1,995	1,786	1,825	1,732	1,846	1,932	2,044
MND	2,938	2,882	2,866	2,697	2,859	2,840	2,892	2,722
Army	102,261	101,303	98,598	93,939	87,176	82,231	79,746	78,407
MFD	80,546	79,092	76,781	73,668	68,564	63,854	61,431	60,532
MLD	14,786	15,217	14,319	12,237	10,667	10,122	10,001	9,971
MND	6,736	6,952	7,480	8,021	7,938	8,246	8,308	7,890
RAF	40,134	40,087	38,125	35,350	33,206	31,828	30,984	30,853
MFD	34,341	34,393	32,657	30,303	28,186	26,933	25,743	25,701
MLD	1,472	1,616	1,561	1,402	1,412	1,433	1,618	1,845
MND	3,941	3,966	3,865	3,634	3,599	3,461	3,622	3,304

¹ Full-time trained strength (RN/RM & RAF) and full-time trade trained strength (Army).

² Medically Fully Deployable (MFD), Medically Limited Deployable (MLD), Medically Not Deployable (MND).

³ Medical Deployability Standard (MDS) categories may not sum to the total number of personnel in each year and Service. This is because MDS was not available for all personnel.

Table 2: UK Armed Forces Personnel¹ medically downgraded due to Mental and Behavioural Disorders² or Diseases of Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands and Jaws^{3,4}, numbers
 Personnel medically downgraded as at 1 June 2016, 1 January 2017, 1 April 2017

	1 June 2016	1 January 2017	1 April 2017
All personnel			
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	2,505	2,483	2,591
Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands & Jaws	11	11	<5
Naval Service			
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	503	501	523
Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands & Jaws	<5	<5	<5
Army			
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	1,402	1,386	1,447
Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands & Jaws	<5	<5	0
RAF			
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	600	596	621
Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands & Jaws	5	5	0

¹ Full-time trained strength (RN/RM & RAF) and full-time trade trained strength (Army).

² Mental and Behavioural Disorders (F00 – F99).

³ Diseases of Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands and Jaws (K00 – K14).

⁴ Where principal cause of medical downgrading was Mental and Behavioural Disorders or Diseases of Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands and Jaws.

With regards to your request for “a list of other categories for which UK Regular Armed Forces personnel medically are classified when downgraded (MLD or MND)”, please note that clinicians use read codes within the electronic patient record. These read codes relate to any medical condition, symptom, injury or illness that may affect personnel. Read codes map to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, version 10 (ICD-10).

The chapters within ICD-10 can be used to group conditions. For example, Mental and Behavioural Disorders contains all ICD-10 codes from F00 to F99. Diseases of Oral Cavity, Salivary Glands and Jaws includes all ICD-10 codes from K00 to K14 and is a sub-category that falls within Diseases of the Digestive System (K00 – K93).

The top-level chapters of ICD-10 used by Defence Statistics Health are as follows:

- Infectious and parasitic diseases (A00 – B99)
- Neoplasms (C00 – D48)
- Blood disorders (D50 – D89)
- Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00 – E90)
- Mental and behavioural disorders (F00 – F99)
- Nervous system disorders (G00 – G99)
- Eye and adnexa diseases (H00 – H59)
- Ear and mastoid process diseases (H60 – H95)
- Circulatory system disorders (I00 – I99)
- Respiratory system disorders (J00 – J99)
- Digestive system disorders (K00 – K93)
- Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases (L00 – L99)
- Musculoskeletal disorders (M00 – M99) and Injuries (S00 – T98)
- Genitourinary system diseases (N00 – N99)
- Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (O00 – O99)
- Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (P00 – P96)
- Congenital malformations (Q00 – Q99)
- Clinical and laboratory findings (R00 – R99)
- Factors influencing health status (Z00 – Z99)

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to note:

The following website may be of use when looking at ICD-10 classifications: www.icd10data.com.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health