



Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]
Defence Business Services
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2017/01072/[REDACTED]

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.uk

16 February 2017

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your email of 20 January with enclosures, [REDACTED] seeking information on sexual abuse cases. I am treating your letter as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As Defence Business Services (DBS) administers the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) we were asked to respond to Question 4 of your previous Freedom of Information request dated 20 October 2016 which was:

'Please provide us with the number of MOD personnel/civilians subject to military law who have submitted a claim to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) as a result of suffering sexual abuse (including rape and harassment) during their service in the armed forces from 6 April 2005 to the present day. The information should include whether the injuries were inflicted by a member of the armed forces personnel. The information should include military personnel within the various armed forces, broken down by rank.'

You were advised that information on civilian claimants is not held, as civilian personnel, even those subject to military law, are not entitled to claim under the AFCS. It was also confirmed that the information in request of Service Personnel could not be answered without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. However, you were advised that since June 2015, 12 AFCS claims have been identified that clearly related to Sexual Abuse, Sexual Harassment or Rape.

In view of this you have now asked:

'We have considered your response and we should be grateful if you could provide us with further clarification in relation to the Veterans UK project referred to in your response. Since June 2015, 12 AFCS claims have been identified that relate to sexual abuse, sexual harassment or rape. Please could you provide us with further information about these cases? In particular, we would be grateful if you could provide about information about the location of the incident leading to the claims, whether the claims are individual or linked and the nature of the claims.'

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. The information you seek has been provided in the attached Annex.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, Ground Floor, 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 normally 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,

DBS Secretariat Team

No	Service	Claimant Rank										Offender		Incident Details		
		OR-1	OR-2	OR-3	OR-4	OR-5	OR-6	OR-7	OR-8	OR-9	SP	Civilian	Location of Incident	Incident Linked	Type	
1	Army		✓									✓		Overseas	No	Sexual Assault
2	Army	✓										✓		UK Barracks	No	Sexual Assault
3	RN	✓										✓		Shipboard	No	Sexual Assault
4	Army				✓							✓		Barracks	No	Sexual Harrassment
5	Army	✓										✓		UK Barracks	No	Sexual Assault
6	Army		✓									✓		UK Barracks	No	Sexual Assault
7	Army			✓								✓		UK Barracks	No	Sexual Assault
8	Army	✓										✓		UK Barracks	No	Sexual Harrassment
9	Army	✓										✓		UK Barracks	No	Sexual Harrassment
10	Army	✓										✓		Overseas	No	Sexual Assault
11	RN	✓										✓		Overseas	No	Sexual Assault
12	Army				✓							✓		Location unknown	No	Sexual Assault
		0	6	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	2	Not on MOD property	No	Sexual Assault

Note: NATO rank codes have been used in the annexe, the Army and Royal Navy ranks are shown below.

- OR-1 Pte AB2
- OR-2 Pte AC AB1 (Mne)
- OR-3 L/Cpl L/Cpl
- OR-4 Cpl LH
- OR-5 SAC Cpl
- OR-6 Sgt PO Sgt
- OR-7 SSgt/CSgt CPO
- CT/FSgt CSgt
- OR-8 WO2
- OR-9 WO1
- WO1
- WO2
- WO2
- WO1
- WO1
- WO