



Ministry
of Defence

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Ministry of Defence
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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2018 requesting the following information:

1. *Children treated in military medical treatment facilities (MTFs).*
2. *Iraq campaign?*
3. *Afghanistan campaign?*
4. *If you have a break down of injuries/ diseases, this would be great.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This is also in line with Defence Statistics rounding policy, in which numbers fewer than five are suppressed in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

There were **702** children (under 18 years of age) treated in a military medical treatment facility in Iraq or Afghanistan between 21 April 2003 and 13 July 2014. Of these, **688** were in Afghanistan, and the remaining **14** in Iraq.

Please note that these figures are an estimate. In some of the data used to answer this FOI request the date of birth field has not been recorded or the date of birth entered is not valid, therefore the total number of paediatrics could be higher or lower than the numbers given.

Table 1: Children¹ treated in a military medical treatment facility, by location and cause category recorded at initial assessment, estimated numbers.

21 April 2003 to 13 July 2014

	All	Afghanistan	Iraq
All	702	688	14
Injuries	642	630	12
Assault	~	~	0
Burn	40	40	0
Crush	~	~	0
Drowning	~	~	0
Explosive	235	~	~
Fall	6	~	~
Gun Shot Wound	115	~	~
Motor Vehicle Collision	40	40	0
Stabbing	~	~	0
Undefined ²	198	192	6
Illnesses	28	~	~
Unknown	32	32	0

Source: OpEDAR and WHIS

1. Includes under 18 year olds.

2. Undefined includes all records classified as an injury but where a further injury mechanism has not been provided.

~ Numbers less than five; where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

In line with JSP 200 (April 2016), the suppression methodology has been applied to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified dependent on the risk of disclosure. Numbers fewer than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there was only one number in a row or column that was fewer than five, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

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

The guidelines and procedures for the provision of care to local nationals (including that given to children) at UK medical facilities on operations, is contained within the Medical Rules of Eligibility (MRE). The MRE can be complex and will always require the understanding of the operational context at that time, balancing clinical need, operational, humanitarian, and ethical requirements.

Operational Emergency Department Attendance Register (OpEDAR)

Until 31 December 2011, the OpEDAR database recorded all patients who had attended or been admitted through the A&E department of the UK operational field hospital. The data included all patients including UK Service personnel, other NATO forces, civilians (both UK and nationals) and detainees. This register was replaced with a new IT system; Whole Hospital Information System (WHIS).

Whilst most of the data is captured via drop down menus, some fields, including 'Diagnosis' are free text and thus the quality of medical information captured is variable.

OpEDAR captures diagnosis at the initial assessment. It is possible for diagnosis to change over the course of treatment or for a patient to have multiple conditions, however, this information is not captured in this database

Whole Hospital Information System (WHIS)

The WHIS is the Patient Administration system for the Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) at Camp Bastion. It commenced 1 October 2010 and ceased on 22 September 2014 when the MTF closed at Camp Bastion. The WHIS system was decommissioned and returned to the UK.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering the UK Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

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, 2nd 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 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>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics Health Head (B1)