



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 7 March 2018 requesting the following information:

“Since April 2016, how many Armed Forces personnel who were assessed by the MOD Department for mental health or admitted to MOD in patient provider for initial assessment of PTSD, eating disorders or other mental health issues (categorised) by category please.”

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

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds the information on the subject you have requested.

Between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017 (latest data available), **5,083** UK Armed Forces personnel had an initial assessment for a mental disorder at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services. **Table 1** shows this by mental disorder.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel with an initial assessment for a mental disorder^{1,2,3} at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services, by disorder. Number.

1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

All mental disorders	5,083
Psychoactive substance misuse	247
Mood disorders	1,680
of which depression	1,266
Neurotic disorders	3,191
of which PTSD	328
of which Adjustment disorders	1,625
Other mental disorders	112
of which Eating disorders	20

Source: DMICP, BFG and SSSFT

1. The sum of the disorders may not equal the total as an individual may be assessed with more than one disorder during the period analysed
2. Clinician's initial assessment based on presenting symptoms
3. Excludes personnel where Initial diagnosis was not supplied
4. These numbers differ from those presented in the UK Armed Forces Mental Health Annual Official Statistic as Table 1 in this analysis also includes initial assessment for a mental disorder at the MOD in-patient provider as well as a MOD DCMH. The Annual Official Statistic methodology excludes 107 personnel were admitted to an in-patient provider during 2016/17 but did not have an initial assessment at a DCMH in the same financial year.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to note the following:

Further analysis on mental disorders in the UK Armed Forces treated at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services can be found in the following Official Statistic publication produced by Defence Statistics Health in June each year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-mental-health-statistics-index>

UK Armed Forces personnel have access to Specialist Mental Health Services, by referrals made by their GP, provided through MOD DCMH or MOD In-patient providers. DCMH are specialised psychiatric services based on community mental health teams closely located with primary care services at MOD sites in the UK and abroad. All UK based and aero-medically evacuated Service personnel based overseas requiring in-patient admission are treated by one of eight NHS trusts in the UK which are part of a consortium headed by the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation trust (SSSFT). UK based Service personnel from British Forces Germany (BFG) were treated at Guys and St Thomas Hospital in the UK up until April 2013 and from this date, at Gilead IV hospital, Bielefeld, under a contract with Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Family Association (SSAFA) through the Limited Liability Partnership.

DCMH staff record the initial mental health assessment during a patient's first appointment, based on presenting complaints. The information is provisional and final diagnoses may differ as some patients do not present the full range of symptoms, signs or clinical history during their first appointment. The mental health assessment of condition data were categorised according to the World Health Organisation's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health-Related Disorders 10th edition (ICD-10) <http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2016/en#/V>

All personnel admitted to a MOD in-patient provider are seen in a DCMH once they are discharged from in-patient care. The majority of personnel admitted to an in-patient provider have an initial assessment at a DCMH in the same financial year, however some personnel may be seen at a DCMH in the previous or following financial year. The numbers presented in this response differ from those presented in the UK Armed Forces Mental Health Annual Official Statistic as Table 1 in this analysis also includes initial assessment for a mental disorder at the MOD in-patient provider as well as a MOD DCMH. The Annual Official Statistic methodology excludes 107 personnel were admitted to an in-patient provider during 2016/17 but did not have an initial assessment at a DCMH in the same financial year.

The data in this report include regular UK Armed Forces personnel, Ghurkhas, Military Provost Guard Staff, mobilised reservists, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and Non-regular Permanent Staff as all of these individuals are eligible for assessment at a DCMH.

MOD DCMH data is as recorded on the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP). DMICP is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. MOD In-patient data is as provided by BFG and SSSFT.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering mental health in 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.gov.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, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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)