



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Our Reference: FOI2018/04666

Email: [REDACTED]

22 May 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 4 April 2018 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in which you requested the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I seek the following pieces of information:

1. The amount of complaints regarding bullying, intimidation and harassment made within the British Defence forces.
2. Of these, how many cases are ongoing and how many have been closed.
3. The amount of cases of sexual crimes being reported within the British forces.
4. Of these, how many cases are ongoing and how many have been closed.

I would like this information broken down annually for 2017, 2016, 2015, and 2014.

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 information in scope of your request is held. We have interpreted your request as referring to military service complaints. You may wish to note that intimidation could fall under either the bullying or harassment categories.

The information relating to 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 concerning complaints is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain at the following links:

<https://www.servicecomplaintsombudsman.org.uk/service-complaintsombudsman/publications-and-reports/annual-reports/>

Information concerning the numbers of sexual crimes for 2015, 2016 and 2017 is also exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA, and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sexual-offences-in-the-service-justicesystem>

Concerning the number of reported sexual crimes, in 2014 there were a total of 78 investigations into sex crimes (see notes), 24 of which were ongoing investigations as at 1 April 2016.

Notes

1. In accordance with long-standing policy, rape includes attempted rape, but is limited to s.1 SOA 2003, and thus does not include historical offences, or those against younger children, contrary to s.5 SOA 2003.
2. As above, sexual assault is defined as offences and attempted offences contrary to ss.2-4 SOA 2003.

The Armed Forces do not tolerate sexual assault in any form and all allegations are taken very seriously and thoroughly investigated. Those who are found to have fallen short of our high standards can expect action to be taken.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

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.gov.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,

(Original Signed)
Defence People Secretariat