



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2017/10609
FOI2017/11497

Reply to: [REDACTED]

7 February 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mails of 19 October 2017 and clarification of 9 November 2017 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

"Please could you provide me with the following information regarding cases of sexual misconduct in the Armed Forces since December 31, 2012:

- Dates of complaints made and/or investigations held regarding cases of sexual misconduct between members of the Armed Forces*
- Information regarding the exact nature of the complaint/investigation*
- What action was taken following the complaint/investigation*
- Whether the case occurred in the RAF, Royal Navy or British Army*
- The rank of the officers involved*

Could you also provide the following information:

- RAF: which group, station, wing and squadron the case related to*
- Royal Navy: Whether the case related to the Surface Fleet, Submarine Service, Fleet Air Arm, Royal Marines or Royal Fleet Auxiliary and which vessel and/or naval base the case related to*
- British Army: which unit the case related to"*

On clarification you advised:

"Would it be possible to include all instances that fall under the umbrella of 'sexual offences' but specify the nature of those offences e.g. whether it was sexual assault, rape, inappropriate relationships etc." and

"Could you include Service Police investigations and unit level investigations and specify this in your response."

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

I apologise for the time taken in replying to your correspondence.

I must advise that this request is exempt under Section 12 of the FOI Act. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The official statistics for sexual offences in the Armed Forces for 2017 are exempt under section 22 of the FOI Act as they are due to be published in March 2018.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act, public authorities are required to provide the requester with advice and assistance, especially where a request for information exceeds the appropriate cost limit. Therefore I can advise you that the figures showing sexual offences in the Service Justice System for 2015 and 2016 can be found at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sexual-offences-in-the-service-justice-system-2016>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sexual-offences-in-the-service-justice-system-2015>

The results of Court Martial proceedings from 2010 - 2017, can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/court-martial-results-from-the-military-courtcentres#full-history>

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 CIOFOI-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 People Secretariat FOI