



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)

Ministry of Defence

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[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 6 June 2018 requesting the following information:

*I am looking at the UK Armed Forces Suicide Rate 1984-2017 and would like to know whether the 12 waiting verdicts from 2017 have been concluded and what the ongoing number is for 2018. I am also interested in any information you have on suicide amongst veterans.*

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.

Of the 12 waiting verdicts reported for 2017 in the Defence Statistics publication: Suicide and Open Verdict Deaths in the UK Regular Armed Forces: Annual Summary and Trends Over Time 1 January 1984 to 31 December 2017, two inquests have now been concluded. One coroner returned a 'Narrative' conclusion and one coroner returned a verdict of 'Suicide'.

Between 1 January 2018 and 3 June 2018 (the latest data available) there have been **six** UK Armed Forces personnel who have died where the mechanism of death suggests suicide and which are currently awaiting the outcome of a coroner's investigation.

Although the MOD does not hold information on the causes of death of all UK Armed Forces veterans, studies have been carried out on two cohorts of ex-Service personnel. The MOD has published information on the causes of death, including suicides, among Veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf conflict and the 1982 Falklands campaign. The latest publications can be found on the Gov.uk website:

- Causes of mortality among veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf conflict:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/causes-of-deaths-that-occurred-among-the-uk-veterans-of-the-199091-gulf-conflict>
- Causes of mortality among veterans of the Falklands conflict:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/causes-of-deaths-among-the-uk-armed-forces-veterans-of-the-1982-falklands-campaign>

A MOD sponsored research paper on suicides since 1996 among those that had left the Armed Forces was published in March 2009 in the Public Library of Science (PLoS) Medicine at [https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/suicide-after-leaving-the-uk-armed-forces-a-cohort-study\(5837846f-8990-41b2-82a4-f448138274ae\).html](https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/en/publications/suicide-after-leaving-the-uk-armed-forces-a-cohort-study(5837846f-8990-41b2-82a4-f448138274ae).html).

Defence Statistics Health compiles the Department's authoritative deaths database for all UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service going back to 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

Figures are for tri-Service regular personnel and only those reserve personnel who have died whilst on operational deployment.

To understand more about Coroner Inquests and conclusions, please go the following link : <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/coroners#a09>

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, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto: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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health Head (B1)