



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the department on 30 September 2018 requesting the following information:

“Under the " Freedom of Information Act " i would like to know.

Those Soldiers that served in the 1ST Gulf War, that have since died of Cancers. Could this be shown in what Regiments/Corps they served in?”

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, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

As at 31 December 2015 (the latest data available) there were **501** UK veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf Conflict that have since died from cancer. **Table 1** presents this information by Service and Corps at the time of Gulf 1. Corps is an Army specific category and was not recorded on the Gulf 1 cohort data for Naval Service and RAF personnel. Therefore, the summary by Corps has only been provided for Army personnel.

Please note that it is not possible to attribute these deaths due to cancer with previous deployment on the Gulf 1 conflict.

Following advice from Defence Statistics' Army manpower branch, Army Infantry Corps have been presented by Division. Please note that these groupings differ to historic figures you have received following previous FOI requests.

Table 1: 1990/91 Gulf Conflict veterans who have since died from cancer, by Service and Corps, numbers^{1,p}

As at 31 December 2015

Corps	Gulf 1 Veterans
All	501
Naval Service	61
Royal Navy	58
Royal Marines	3
Army	319
Household Cavalry	1
Royal Armoured Corps	27
Royal Regiment of Artillery	36
Corps of Royal Engineers	25
Royal Corps of Signals	18
Infantry	51
Queen's Division	10
Prince of Wales' Division	4
King's Division	2
Light Division	2
Scottish Division	15
Guards Division	7
Infantry, other	11
Army Air Corps	7
The Royal Logistic Corps ²	59
Royal Army Medical Corps	16
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	30
Adjutant General's Corps	8
Royal Army Dental Corps	2
Intelligence Corps	2
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	5
Long Service List ³	1
Staff ⁴	2
Regiment not recorded	29
Royal Air Force	121

Source: Death Certificates and MOD Personnel Files

1. Service and Corps at time of deployment to the 1990/91 Gulf Conflict.
2. Includes those personnel who served in the Royal Engineers Postal and Courier Service, Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps and the Army Catering Corps before formation of the Royal Logistic Corps in April 1993.
3. Long Service List – service in one of the appointments not specified to a particular arm which have been annotated by the Ministry of Defence as being suitable for the extra-regimental employment of soldiers who have completed 22 years reckonable service. Please note this engagement existed at the time of Gulf 1 but is not a current engagement within the Army.
4. Staff – all personnel at the rank of Colonel or above are listed as Staff.

p This figure has been produced using some provisional figures due to potential inaccuracies in the data – see section 16 advice below for more details.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) you may wish to note the following:

The Gulf 1 mortality study compares the mortality rates of 53,409 UK Armed Forces personnel that deployed to the 1990/91 Gulf Conflict to those of a comparison group, the Era cohort. The Era cohort consists of 53,143 UK Armed Forces personnel of similar age, gender, Service, regular/reservist status and rank who were in Service on 1 January 1991 but did not deploy to the Gulf. The findings include deaths that occurred to personnel whilst in service and deaths that occurred after personnel had left the UK Armed Forces.

The latest publication and further information on the study can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/causes-of-deaths-that-occurred-among-the-uk-veterans-of-the-199091-gulf-conflict>.

Please note that during production of the latest published Gulf 1 mortality statistics, Defence Statistics identified possible inaccuracies between NHS Digital deaths data and the cause of death data held by the MOD. Therefore, all figures presented by cause of death within the latest release

were marked provisional (p) whilst MOD investigates. As a result the figures provided in this response have also been marked provisional.

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

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