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[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 25 October 2018 requesting the following information:

“UK Armed Forces Mental Health: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time, 2007/08 - 2016/17

Please can I ask if these stats include serving personnel or/and those being medically discharged due to mental health issues including PTSD?

Also attempted suicides and suicides in the serving personnel? *Aren't included.*”

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 the information in scope of your request is held.

I can confirm that the report “UK Armed Forces Mental Health: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time Official Statistic” includes all serving UK Armed Forces personnel who attended an initial assessment for a new episode of care at MOD Specialist Mental Health services. This includes initial assessments at MOD Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) for outpatient care and all admissions to the MOD’s in-patient care contractor. All personnel with a read code for PTSD recorded in their medical record had an electronic record of attendance at a DCMH and thus have been included in the annual mental health bulletin.

UK Armed Forces personnel who were medically discharged for mental and behavioural reasons who had an initial assessment at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services prior to their medical discharge, will be included in “UK Armed Forces Mental Health: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time Official Statistic”. Only 2% of personnel were medically discharged for mental and behavioural reasons and did not have an electronic record associated with attendance at a DCMH prior to their discharge and thus would not have been included in the annual mental health bulletin.

Similarly, UK Armed Forces personnel who deliberately self-harmed or committed suicide who were previously seen at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services, will be included in “UK Armed Forces Mental Health: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time Official Statistic”.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following in relation to your questions:

The Background Quality Report (BQR) that goes alongside the UK Armed Forces Mental Health: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time Official Statistic which provides extra information on the data and methodology used can be found at the following link:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mental-health-in-the-uk-armed-forces-background-quality-report

The Annual Medical Discharges in the UK Regular Armed Forces Official Statistic can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-personnel-statistics-index>

The UK Armed Forces Suicide and Open Verdict Deaths National Statistic can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-suicide-and-open-verdict-deaths-index>

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). 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)