



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 28 November 2018 requesting the following information:

"I was hoping you can tell me what the current number of military personnel served by/ registered with the DCMHs in our area.

South Central:
Brize Norton
Aldershot
Portsmouth

South West:
Tidworth
Plymouth

If possible it would also be useful to know the number of personnel currently serving in the South Central and South West region if you have this data available. The counties we cover are:

South Central: Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Hampshire (including Portsmouth and Isle of Wight).

South West: Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Cornwall and Isles of Scilly"

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. However, some of this information is exempt under Section 24 (1) (National Security) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 24(1) provides that information is exempt if exemption from section 1(1)(b) is required for the purposes of safeguarding national security. In addition, some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 24(1) is a qualified exemption, which means that it is subject to a public interest test. We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency, but we consider that there is also a public interest in the FCO protecting national security. Having reviewed the requested material, we are concerned that disclosure of the number of personnel registered to one of the regions requested could contribute to the compromising of visitor and staff security and consequently adversely impact on the UK's security. We have therefore concluded that the exemption applies and that withholding the material serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. In line with Joint Service Publication 200 (March 2016), figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in keeping with the ONS Dissemination of Health Statistics:

Confidentiality Guidance. This is also in line with JSP200 Statistics Disclosure Guidance. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Table 1 presents the number of persons at risk for the requested DCMH's as at 1 October 2018.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel registered at South Central and South West DCMH's. Number.

1 October 2018

DCMH	Persons at risk
South Central	
DCMH Aldershot	10,919
DCMH Brize Norton	13,168
DCMH Portsmouth	18,193
South West	
DCMH Tidworth	20,325
DCMH Plymouth	12,894

Source: DMICP

As at 1 October 2018, the total number of UK Armed Forces personnel with a Defence Medical Services (DMS) registration in the South Central region was **32,500**. The total number of UK Armed Forces personnel with a Defence Medical Services (DMS) registration in the South West region was **35,460**.

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

DCMH PARs

The persons at risk include all UK Armed Forces personnel registered on Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP), including Regular and Reservist (DMS Only) and Veterans (Non DMS) personnel, at a MOD DCMH, as these personnel are entitled to DCMH care.

NHS Commissioning Statistic

The total number of personnel serving in the South Central region and the South West region have been taken from the UK Armed Forces NHS Commissioning Population Statistic October 2018. Further details and breakdowns can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/defence-personnel-nhs-commissioning-bi-annual-statistics-financial-year-201819>.

In line with Joint Service Publication 200 (March 2016), figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in keeping with the ONS Dissemination of Health Statistics: Confidentiality Guidance. Rounding is desirable both as a means of disclosure control and to improve the clarity of outputs and convey appropriate levels of precision to users. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

In the NHS Commissioning Statistic, UK Armed Forces Personnel comprise of Regulars, Gurkha and Full Time Reserve Service personnel.

Regional Breakdown

The South Central region is made up of the Thames Valley area (consisting of NHS Aylesbury Vale, NHS Bracknell and Ascot, NHS Newbury and District, NHS Oxfordshire, and NHS Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead), and the Wessex area (consisting of NHS Fareham and Gosport, NHS North East Hampshire and Farnham, NHS North Hampshire, NHS Portsmouth, and NHS West Hampshire).

The South West region is made up of the Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire area (consisting of NHS Somerset and NHS South Gloucestershire), the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly area (consisting of NHS Kernow, NHS North, East, West Devon, and NHS South Devon and

Torbay, and the Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire area (consisting of NHS Gloucestershire, NHS Swindon, and NHS Wiltshire).

DMICP

Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) has a centralised data warehouse of coded information. It is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers.

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)