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23 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 19 June in which you requested the following information:

- 1. As of 1 April 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, please confirm how many soldiers were permanently downgraded to either MLD (P) or MND (P).*
- 2. Of these, please confirm how many were not medically discharged within 12 months of their downgrading.*
- 3. Please break the numbers down by year and capbadge (see breakdown below), and include their PULHHEEMS grading.*

*Break down as per DS(S) Change of Survival statistics: HCAV, RAC, RA, RE, R Signal, Footguards, Scots Div, Queens Div, Kings Div, POW Div, Light Div, R Irish, Para, AAC, RLC, RAMC, REME, AG CORPS (PRO), AG CORPS (SPS), RAVC, RADC, Int Corps, QARANC, CA Mus."*

As I advised you in my letter of 25 June I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. I am sorry that this response has not been provided within the 20 working days stipulated in the FOIA. I can confirm that a search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and that information in scope of your request is held. A copy of the information which can be released is enclosed.

Some information held by the Department falling within scope of your request is exempt from release under section 40(2) (Personal Information) of the FOIA, and is therefore being withheld. This exemption covers personal information which is protected by the Data Protection Act. Section 40 (2) has been applied to the breakdown by PULHHEEMS grading. The numbers are so small, that to release the breakdown could result in the inadvertent disclosure of the individuals' identities.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that service personnel with medical conditions or fitness issues which affect their ability to perform their duties are assessed in Primary Care or referred to a Medical Board for a medical examination and review of their medical grading. The patient may be downgraded to allow for treatment and rehabilitation. Medically downgraded personnel are those personnel who have been assessed by a Medical Board or in

primary care and subsequently awarded a Medical Deployability Standard (MDS) of either MLD or MND. The MDS awarded can be on a temporary or permanent basis.

Medical Boards do not make decisions on attributability to Service. These decisions are made by administrators of the MOD pension and compensation schemes at Vets-UK, previously Service Personnel and Veterans' Agency (SPVA).

"Permanent" does not mean that the MDS cannot change; it means that the medical downgrading is expected to last more than 12 months, at which point the personnel's medical grading will be reviewed.

Medical discharges are the result of a number of specialists (medical, occupational, psychological, personnel, etc) concluding that an individual is suffering from a medical condition that precludes their continued service in the Armed Forces.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-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,

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██████████

SO2 Pers & Cap 4  
Army Secretariat

**Table 1: UK Army Regular Soldiers by Medically Limited Deployable (Permanent) or Medically Not Deployable (Permanent)\*, Regiment/Corps and medical discharged status\*\*, numbers**

Personnel medically downgraded as at 1 April 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018

	1 April 2015				1 April 2016				1 April 2017				1 April 2018***	
	MLD(P)	Not Med Discharged**	MND(P)	Not Med. Discharged**	MLD(P)	Not Med. Discharged**	MND(P)	Not Med. Discharged**	MLD(P)	Not Med. Discharged**	MND(P)	Not Med. Discharged**	MLD(P)	MND(P)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,461</b>	<b>5,404</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>5,428</b>	<b>5,391</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>5,653</b>	<b>5,604</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>5,755</b>	<b>1,796</b>
H Cav/RAC	268	~	119	54	259	~	114	49	269	~	134	60	271	126
RA	414	408	132	61	429	424	196	74	470	464	159	72	465	147
RE	437	432	164	74	426	~	224	93	442	~	204	88	447	154
R Signals	503	~	107	40	504	~	135	71	493	~	163	98	556	127
Guards Division	146	140	99	24	155	~	111	36	162	152	126	49	163	79
SW1****	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	0	44	0	55	31
POW****	93	86	103	33	93	88	121	30	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scots****	116	~	67	28	121	121	89	35	135	~	107	43	164	81
Queen's Div	116	~	90	38	142	~	134	48	147	142	140	47	128	94
King's Div	122	~	71	32	103	~	100	34	160	~	150	57	180	116
Rifles	114	109	97	38	131	~	113	45	173	167	130	54	160	108
Para	46	~	55	15	51	46	64	12	50	44	87	26	42	43
Infantry (Unspecified)	39	39	12	~	41	41	17	9	42	42	~	~	48	~
AAC	160	160	29	10	160	160	27	14	154	154	29	18	142	34
RLC	1,035	1,024	274	100	968	963	290	131	968	~	328	159	972	286
RAMC	229	~	47	23	224	~	52	24	259	259	69	32	270	53
REME	624	~	133	51	610	~	168	90	623	~	175	92	593	150
AGC (SPS)	545	~	63	26	540	540	76	31	559	559	75	39	569	61
AGC (Pro)	148	148	34	18	150	150	32	22	158	~	44	26	150	34
AGC (Unspecified)	0	0	~	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RAVC	20	20	14	8	23	23	9	~	25	25	12	5	24	5
SASC	12	12	~	0	11	0	~	0	10	0	~	~	12	~
RADC	16	16	~	~	14	~	~	~	19	~	~	~	14	~
Int Corps	99	99	16	11	103	103	25	18	105	~	29	18	120	21
RAPTC	22	22	8	~	29	~	~	~	27	~	~	~	24	~
QARANC	57	57	19	8	60	60	23	9	72	72	13	5	88	23
CAMus	80	80	9	~	81	81	13	~	87	87	12	~	94	12

**Notes:**

Personnel at each point in time refers to how many people held an MDS of either MLD(P) or MND(P) at that point. Therefore, personnel will appear only once in each year, but may appear in multiple years.

\* In line with the PULLHEEMS Administrative Pamphlet (PAP), a MDS of Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) would be attributed when a service person has a PULHHEEMS physical (P) grading of 3 or in exceptional cases 7. A MDS of Medically Not Deployable (MND) would be attributed when a service person has a PULHHEEMS P grading of 4,7,8 or 0.

\*\* Personnel who were in service at specified time point and were not medically discharged within the following 12 months. Please note, these personnel may still be in service, may have left service for other reasons or been medically discharged more than 12 months after the date.

\*\*\* Medical discharges for personnel in service at 1 April 2018 cannot be provided as the request asks for the numbers within 12 months of their downgrading, therefore this data will not be available until at 1 April 2019.

\*\*\*\* Due to re-structuring of the Infantry forces the following changes occurred. In 2017 the Prince of Wales regiment and Scots were redistributed and disbanded as formal divisions. The Mercian regiment (formerly of the POW division) were move to King's division. The Scots, Irish and Welsh regiment were combined to form the Scottish, Welsh and Irish (SWI) division.

~ Figures less than five have been suppressed.