



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received by the department on 21 December 2018 requesting the following information:

“Could you please provide figures for the number of service personnel classified as medically down-graded s of December 2018.

Separately could you provide figures for the number of troops medically down graded for mental health reasons and of those, how many are suffering from PTSD.

I would like the figures broken down by service.”

Following further communication, you confirmed that by “troops” you meant “UK Armed Forces Personnel (Regular and Reservists)”.

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 the information in scope of your request is held.

As at 1 December 2018, **35,740** UK Armed Forces Personnel were medically downgraded:

- of which **3,542** were medically downgraded due to Mental and Behavioural Disorders.
- of which **522** were medically downgraded due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Table 1: UK Armed Forces Personnel medically downgraded¹, by condition² and Service, numbers³

1 December 2018

| | All | Naval Service ¹ | Army | Royal Air Force |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Medically downgraded | 35,740 | 5,647 | 23,859 | 6,234 |
| Mental and behavioural disorders (F00-F99) | 3,542 | 716 | 1,890 | 936 |
| <i>Of which Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)</i> | 522 | 105 | 368 | 49 |

Source: DMICP and JPA

1. Personnel in service and medically downgraded as at 1 December 2018.

2. Personnel who are medically downgraded or discharged can be affected by multiple injuries/illness. The principal cause is the main medical cause leading to the downgrading or discharge.

3. Principal cause of downgrading taken from DMICP where JPA Medical Deployability Standard matched most recent DMICP medical grading record.

¹ Naval Service includes both the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines.

Figures presented are for trained and untrained, Regular and Reserve personnel.

Medical discharges due to Mental and Behavioural Disorders were identified as personnel who were medically discharged with a principal cause of downgrading coded as the following in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems Tenth Revision (ICD-10):

- Mental and Behavioural Disorders, F00-F99
- PTSD, F43.1

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. The definitions of MDS categories are as follows:

Medically Fully Deployable (MFD): Personnel medically fit for duty with no employment limitations.
Medically Limited Deployable (MLD): Personnel medically fit for duty with minor employment limitations. MLD personnel may have a medical condition or functional limitation that prevents the meeting of all Medically Fully Deployable (MFD) requirements.
Medically Not Deployable (MND): Personnel medically fit for duty with major employment limitations. MND personnel are not fit to deploy on Operations but may be deployable on UK based exercises and should be able to work effectively for at least 32.5 hours per week.

UK Armed Forces personnel have access to Specialist Mental Health Services, by referrals made by their GP, provided through MOD DCMH or MOD In-patient providers. DCMH are specialised psychiatric services based on community mental health teams closely located with primary care services at MOD sites in the UK and abroad. All UK based and aero-medically evacuated Service personnel based overseas requiring in-patient admission are treated by one of eight NHS trusts in the UK which are part of a consortium headed by the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation trust (SSSFT). UK based Service personnel from British Forces Germany (BFG) were treated at Guys and St Thomas Hospital in the UK up until April 2013 and from this date, at Gilead IV hospital, Bielefeld, under a contract with Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Family Association (SSAFA) through the Limited Liability Partnership.

MDS has been compiled using the Defence Statistics "derived" field which utilises a combination of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) and Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) MDS.

Joint Personnel Administration is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK Armed Forces personnel and is used to gather information on a person's service and MDS.

DMICP was rolled out in 2007 and is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. The information on downgrading cases was sourced from electronic medical records from DMICP.

Any data entered as free text only in patients' medical record will not be included in the figures presented as this information is not available in the data warehouse.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering medical discharges in the UK Armed Forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

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, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

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