



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

Ref: FOI 2019/01339

26 February 2019

Thank you for your email of 29 January 2019 requesting the following information:

“The request is for the numbers of regular or reserve Armed Forces Personnel of any rank across the UK Armed Forces who have been medically discharged as a result of Brain Trauma Injury. As this is to give us an idea of the extent of the issue please could this be provided from the year 2000 to present if possible”

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 all the information in scope of your request is held on Regular personnel.

Between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2018 (latest data available), **399** UK Regular¹ Armed Forces personnel were medically discharged with a principal or contributory cause of traumatic brain injury (**Table 1**).

Table 1: UK Regular Armed Forces personnel Medically Discharged with a principal or contributory cause of traumatic brain injury², by financial year, numbers
1 April 2000 to 31 March 2018

Financial Year	n
All	399
2000/01	21
2001/02	23
2002/03	18
2003/04	14
2004/05	17
2005/06	21
2006/07	6
2007/08	12
2008/09	17
2009/10	15
2010/11	10
2011/12	27
2012/13	28
2013/14	35
2014/15	48
2015/16	32
2016/17	27
2017/18	28

Source: FMed 23s and DMICP

1. Includes trained and untrained personnel.

2. Identified by ICD-10 codes S06 (intracranial injury), S09.7 (multiple injuries of the head), and T060 (injuries of brain and cranial nerves).

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it useful to note:

Medical discharges due to traumatic brain injuries were identified as personnel who were medically discharged with a principal or contributory cause of discharge coded as the following in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems Tenth Revision (ICD-10):

- S06: Intracranial injury.
- S09.7: Multiple injuries of the head (this may include injuries other than those directly affecting the brain).
- T060: Injuries of brain and cranial nerves.

The principal condition of discharge is the first principal ICD-10 code on the medical discharge documents. Contributory causes of medical discharge are all other principal conditions and any contributory conditions on the medical discharge documents. Both principal and contributory causes have been included to give a better understanding as to the prevalence of medical discharges due to traumatic brain injuries.

Medical discharges are the result of several specialists (medical, occupational, psychological, personnel, etc) concluding that an individual is suffering from a medical condition that pre-empts their continued service in the Armed Forces. Statistics based on these discharges do not represent measures of true morbidity or pathology. At best they indicate a minimum burden of ill-health in the Armed Forces. Furthermore, the number and diversity of processes involved with administering a medical discharge introduce a series of time lags, as well as impact on the quality of data recorded.

The information on cases was sourced from electronic personnel records from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) and manually entered paper documents from medical boards. The primary purpose of these medical documents is to ensure the appropriate administration of each individual patient's discharge. Statistical analysis and reporting is a secondary function.

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.

Not all personnel with traumatic brain injury may have been medically discharged. Some personnel may have been retained in service and for some, the traumatic brain injury may have been mild.

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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health