



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2019/03736

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 25 March 2019 requesting the following information:

“I would like to request the following information: for the years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and if any data exists 2019, the number of hospital inpatient admissions and the length of stay for UK Armed Forces personnel with mental health disorders.”

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 information in scope of your request is held by the MOD.

Table 1 shows the number of inpatient admissions and average length of stay at a MOD inpatient provider for UK Armed Forces personnel, by year.

Table 1: MOD mental health inpatient provider admissions and length of stay information¹ for UK Armed Forces personnel. Number.

2013 – 2018²

	Total inpatient admissions	Length of stay (days) ¹		
		Median	Lower Quartile	Upper Quartile
2013	325	10	6	17
2014	336	10.5	7	18
2015	331	10	6	19
2016	324	12	7	20
2017	324	10	6	19
2018 ²	62	11	5.25	17.5

Source: SSSFT and BFG

1. There were 5 admissions where length of stay information could not be found. These have been removed from the average length of stay calculations but are included in the total admissions.

2. Data only up to 31 March 2018 as this is the latest data available.

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

The data in this response includes regular UK Armed Forces personnel (including Ghurkhas and Military Provost Guard Staff), mobilised reservists, Full Time Reserve Service personnel and Non-regular Permanent Staff.

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.

Information on length of stay has been presented as a median average with an inter-quartile range, rather than a mean average and standard deviation as these statistics are affected less by outliers.

- The median is the value in the centre of the data set when they are arranged from smallest to largest.
- A quartile is any of three values (first/lower quartile, second quartile (median), third/upper quartile) that divides the sorted (from smallest value to largest value) dataset into four equal parts. The lower quartile is the value that at which 25% of the values in the dataset will be below (25% of all data points will fall below the lower quartile). The upper quartile is the value that at which 75% of the values in the dataset will be below (25% of all data points will fall above the upper quartile).

This response only includes personnel who have been admitted to one of the MOD inpatient providers. Personnel may have been admitted to a NHS facility, therefore the numbers provided here are a minimum. The MOD could search individual medical records to identify personnel who have been admitted to a NHS facility, however this would exceed the FOI cost limit and would be exempt under Section 12 of the FOI Act.

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.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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

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