



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI 2019/ 05363
[REDACTED]

5 June 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email on 7 May 2019 requesting the following information:

“To date, the number of British forces personnel or MOD civilians who have died serving in Afghanistan as a result of hostile action and the causes of their death.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds this information. The information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain in the UK Armed Forces Deaths: Operational deaths post World War II statistic.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-operational-deaths-post-world-war-2-2019>

The following link provides further information on each death:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/fields-of-operation/afghanistan>

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

Defence Statistics (Health) compiles the Department’s authoritative deaths database for all UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service going back to 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

Between 7 October 2001 and 21 May 2019, **405** UK Armed Forces personnel and UK civilians died as a result of hostile action on operations in Afghanistan, of which **353** were Killed in Action and **52** Died of Wounds.

The numbers presented for Afghanistan include UK Armed Forces fatalities that have occurred on Op VERITAS¹ (October 2001 to March 2006), Op HERRICK² (April 2006 to 30 November 2014) and Op TORAL³ (1 December 2014 to present).

¹ **Operation VERITAS** is the name for UK operations in Afghanistan which started in October 2001 and ended in March 2006. The UK was involved in Afghanistan alongside Coalition forces, led by the US under Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), from the first attacks in October 2001.

² **Operation HERRICK** is the name for UK operations in Afghanistan which started 1 April 2006 and ended on 30 November 2014. UK Forces are deployed to Afghanistan in support of the UN authorised, NATO led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission.

³ **Operation TORAL** is the UK’s post 2014 contribution to operations in Afghanistan under the NATO RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION.

Killed in Action is a battle casualty who is killed outright or who dies as a result of wounds or other injuries before reaching a medical treatment facility.

Died of Wounds is a battle casualty who dies of wounds or other injuries received in action, after having reached a medical treatment facility. This only includes those who have died of wounds whilst under the care of Defence Medical Services.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance

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.gov.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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