



# Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2019/07192

Ministry of Defence  
Abbeywood North  
Bristol  
BS34 8JH  
United Kingdom

Telephone 03067 984423

E-mail: [Def-Strat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Def-Strat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk)

17 July 2019

r [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019, requesting the following information:

"1. MERT Personnel who have presented to a medical centre or mental health facility with a diagnosis of:

Anxiety

Depression

Adjustment disorder

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

2. Timelines - 2000 – present

3. Male and female

4. All services

5. *If possible broken down to job type (Nurse, doctor, paramedic etc)".*"

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 information in scope of your request is held. However, I must advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. This is because to identify personnel who worked on the MERT before 2007 would involve a manual search of paper personnel records and would exceed one year of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the MOD may consider providing the following information which is in scope:

The number of regular UK Armed Forces personnel who have "MERT" recorded as their Position Name in the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system since 2007 and had an initial assessment for a mental disorder at MOD Specialist Mental Health Services since April 2007, by mental disorder.

MOD Specialist Mental Health Services includes referrals to MOD Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) for outpatient care and all admissions to the MOD's in-patient care contractor. DCMH are specialised psychiatric services based on community mental health teams closely located with primary care services at 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 are treated at Gilead IV hospital, Bielefeld under a contract with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) through the Limited Liability Partnership.

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](mailto: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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health Head