



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  
Facsimile: +44 (0)1179 319634  
E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

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[REDACTED]

1 July 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter on 3 June 2019 requesting the following information:

“How many Gulf War veterans have committed Suicide (or had accidental deaths such as being involved in a road traffic or death by misadventure.) since 1991, given per year.”

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.

Between 1 April 1991 and 31 December 2015 there were **1,746 deaths** among veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf War conflict, of which **564<sup>P</sup> were due to external causes of mortality**. Of the 564 deaths due to external causes of mortality;

- **216<sup>P</sup>** due to intentional self-harm and events of undetermined intent
- **199<sup>P</sup>** were due to transport accidents
- **124<sup>P</sup>** were due to other external causes of accidental injury
- **25<sup>P</sup>** were due to other external causes of non-accidental injury

Table 1 shows the number of deaths among veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf War conflict, by cause of death and year.

**Table 1: Deaths among veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf War conflict, by cause of death and year, numbers<sup>p</sup>.**

1 April 1991 to 31 December 2015.

	Total	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>All Deaths<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,746</b>	47	57	46	45	52	45	41	56	53	51	52	49	62	56	71	71	95	81	100	88	89	98	119	122	100
Of which,																										
<b>External Causes of Mortality</b>	<b>564</b>	40	45	34	26	33	32	22	30	30	18	19	17	20	18	23	19	23	16	16	16	11	18	17	15	6
Of which,																										
Transport Accidents	199	16	22	16	7	18	18	6	11	10	6	8	5	7	5	6	10	7	3	5	4	5	3	1	0	0
Intentional Self-Harm and Events of Undetermined Intent <sup>2</sup>	216	9	10	11	6	8	11	7	11	16	9	9	9	8	12	10	4	8	9	7	8	3	10	11	8	2
Other External Causes of Accidental Injury	124	13	11	6	12	7	2	8	7	3	3	2	2	2	1	7	1	8	4	2	3	3	3	5	6	3
Other External Causes of Non-Accidental Injury <sup>3</sup>	25	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	1

Source: GRO, MOD, NHS Digital

1. Includes all cause coded deaths, which encompasses disease-related causes, both accidental and non-accidental external causes. All deaths also include deaths where cause of death is not available.

2. Includes both coroner-confirmed suicides and open verdict deaths in line with the definition used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the publication of National Statistics as at 31 December 2015.

3. Includes external causes of death which were not accidental, such as: assault, legal intervention and operations of war, and deaths where the inquest has been adjourned.

p. This numbers presented in this table are provisional due to potential inaccuracies in the data, see below for more information.

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

The Gulf 1 mortality study compares the mortality rates of 53,409 UK Armed Forces personnel that deployed to the 1990/91 Gulf Conflict to those of a comparison group, the Era cohort. The Era cohort consists of 53,143 UK Armed Forces personnel of similar age, gender, Service, regular/reservist status and rank who were in Service on 1 January 1991 but did not deploy to the Gulf. The findings include deaths that occurred to personnel whilst in service and deaths that occurred after personnel had left the UK Armed Forces.

Individuals in the Gulf cohort were identified by the MOD from administration sources. Information provided for each cohort member included age (at Jan 1, 1991), sex, armed forces Service, rank, date of joining and leaving the armed forces (where applicable). Cause of death information has been provided by NHS Digital (formerly known as the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)) who now hold the England central patient registry and the General Register Office (GRO) for Scotland.

Please note that during production of the latest published Gulf 1 mortality statistics (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/causes-of-deaths-that-occurred-among-the-uk-veterans-of-the-199091-gulf-conflict>), Defence Statistics identified possible inaccuracies between NHS Digital deaths data and the cause of death data held by the MOD. Therefore, all figures presented by cause of death within the latest release were marked provisional (p) whilst MOD investigates. As a result, the figures provided in this response have also been marked provisional. In line with the latest published Gulf 1 mortality statistics, data have been provided as at 31 December 2015.

Figures include deaths since 1 April 1991 and exclude those who died as a direct result of the conflict.

External causes of mortality include:

- Transport Accidents (land transport accidents – including pedestrians, water transport, air and space transport, and other and unspecified transport accidents).
- Intentional Self-Harm and Events of Undetermined Intent (suicides and open verdict deaths).
- Other External Causes of Accidental Injury (falls, exposure to inanimate mechanical forces, accidental drowning and submersion and other accidental threats to breathing, accidental poisoning and exposure to noxious substances, and accidental exposure to other and unspecified factors).
- Other External Causes of Non-Accidental Injury (assault, legal intervention and operations of war, complications of medical care, sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality, supplementary factors related to causes of morbidity and mortality classified elsewhere, deaths where the inquest has been adjourned).

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. 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://ico.org.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health