



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received on 18 July 2019 requesting the following information:

“Of that number [deaths from disease-related causes] how many have died with symptoms derived from hypopituitarism / pituitarism / Endocrine disorders and what is that rate in comparison to the public of the same age and sex etc., ?”

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 some of the information in scope of your request is held.

Between 1 April 1991 and 31 December 2015 there were **14 deaths** due to endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases. There were no deaths recorded due to hypopituitarism, or pituitarism.

I have established that the information on UK deaths due to hypopituitarism, pituitarism, or endocrine disorders is not held by the Ministry of Defence. Therefore, it is not possible to compile Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMR) to compare the Gulf cohort with the UK population.

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)) and the National Records of Scotland (NRS, formerly known as 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 are 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.

Causes of death are coded in accordance with the World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases 10th edition (ICD-10) and internationally agreed rules. Endocrine disorders are all recorded under ICD-10 Chapter IV (ICD Codes E00-E90): Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases. This includes:

- Disorders of thyroid gland
- Diabetes mellitus
- Other disorders of glucose regulation and pancreatic internal secretion
- Disorders of other endocrine glands
- Malnutrition
- Other nutritional deficiencies
- Obesity and other hyperalimentation
- Metabolic disorders

Hypopituitarism and pituitarism are also included within this ICD Chapter.

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). 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