



Ministry  
of Defence

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03 December 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email received on 4 November 2019 requesting the following information:

"I am interested in knowing if the MOD has collated any statistics regarding incidences of cancer affecting former members of the armed services who joined in the 1970's and served until 2000."

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

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Ministry of Defence.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) you may wish to note the following:

Veterans diagnosed with cancer after leaving the UK Armed Forces will have been diagnosed by medical professionals working within the National Health Service. Therefore, the MOD does not hold this information.

Whilst the MOD does not hold cancer diagnoses information on all veterans who joined the UK Armed Forces in the 1970s and served until 2000, mortality rates for two specific cohorts who served during this time are published. Cause of death information for neoplasms (cancers) is included within these..

The Falklands mortality study compares the mortality rates of 25,713 UK Armed Forces personnel that deployed to the 1982 Falklands campaign to the UK civilian population. Comparisons are also made with veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf conflict. Note that the findings in this study includes those who died in Service (but after their deployment), and those who died after leaving the UK Armed Forces. The latest report, published as at 31 December 2013 can be found on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/causes-of-deaths-among-the-uk-armed-forces-veterans-of-the-1982-falklands-campaign>

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. Note that the findings in this study includes those who died in Service (but after their deployment), and those who died after leaving the UK Armed Forces. The latest report, published as at 31 December 2015 can be found on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/causes-of-deaths-that-occurred-among-the-uk-veterans-of-the-199091-gulf-conflict>

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](mailto: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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