



Ministry  
of Defence

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Ref: FOI 2020/00114

30 January 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 06 January 2020 requesting the following information:

*“Can you please show me the breakdown of the ethnic backgrounds of British armed forces personnel killed as a consequence of deployment to Afghanistan (Operation Herrick)?”*

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 the information in scope of your request is held.

Between 7 October 2001 and 31 December 2018, **456** UK armed forces personnel died as a result of operations in Afghanistan. Table 1 below presents this information by ethnicity as requested.

**Table 1: UK armed forces<sup>1</sup> deaths<sup>2</sup> as a result of operations in Afghanistan by ethnic group, numbers**

7 October 2001 to 31 December 2019

<b>All</b>	<b>456</b>
Mixed <sup>3</sup>	6
Asian <sup>4</sup>	13
Black <sup>5</sup>	8
Other	4
White	410
Unknown <sup>6</sup>	15

**Source: Defence Statistics Health**

<sup>1</sup> Includes tri-service regular and reservist personnel.

<sup>2</sup> Includes all causes of death: Hostile action, accidents, natural causes, assaults, coroner confirmed suicide and open verdicts and cause not known.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Mixed Asian and White, Mixed Black African and White, Mixed Black Caribbean and White and Other Mixed Ethnic Background.

<sup>4</sup> Includes Any Chinese Background, Asian Bangladeshi, Asian Indian, Asian Pakistani and Other Asian Background.

<sup>5</sup> Includes Black African, Black Caribbean and Other Black Background.

<sup>6</sup> Unknown includes those with an unrecorded ethnic origin and those who choose not to declare.

The numbers presented for Afghanistan include UK armed forces fatalities that have occurred on Op VERITAS<sup>1</sup> (October 2001 to March 2006), Op HERRICK<sup>2</sup> (April 2006 to 30 November 2014) and Op TORAL<sup>3</sup> (1 December 2014 to present).

<sup>1</sup> **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.

<sup>2</sup> **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.

<sup>3</sup> **Operation TORAL** is the UK's post 2014 contribution to operations in Afghanistan under the NATO RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION.

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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