



Ministry
of Defence

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[Redacted]

18 September 2020

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 20 August 2020 requesting the following information:

Under the FOI Act could you provide details as recorded in the JPA system as to how many complaints have been made by Junior Soldiers or their parents/guardians about a) violent behaviour by staff, and b) inappropriate relationships between Junior Soldiers and staff, since 2017 at the following establishments:

1. AFC Harrogate
2. ITC Catterick
3. ATC Pirbright
4. ATR Winchester

I would also like details of the alleged offences, such as the numbers accused of assault, ill treatment 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 information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) and has been withheld.

Incidents reported 1 January 2017 – 19 August 2020 inclusive	<u>Number of alleged offences: a) violent behaviour by staff</u> (includes allegations of assault/battery/ill-treatment of subordinate)	<u>Number of alleged offences: b) inappropriate relationships between Junior Soldiers and staff</u>
AFC Harrogate	10	0

Notes

Each case relates to one suspect but may include more than one alleged incident and/or victim.

One suspect may have more than one case recorded.

The search for the requested data was conducted on JPA in early September 2020. JPA is a live system which is updated for retrospective complaints/allegations and therefore data can be subject to change.

These figures are single service estimates only and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.

Figures have been rounded to ten. Rounding is necessary as a means of disclosure control and preservation of anonymity; it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the Army Foundation College Harrogate is the only Junior Entry Phase 1 training establishment in the British Army for Junior Soldiers. More information about the college is available at the following link: <https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/our-schools-and-colleges/afc-harrogate/>

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). 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,



Army Secretariat