



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2020/11123

E-mail: People-Sec-FOIMailbox@mod.gov.uk

3 November 2020

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 2 October 2020 requesting the following information:

- “1) how many service people have gone awol in possession of their MoD issued firearms in each of the last five full calendar years, plus 2020 to date, broken down by year?
2) how many of these service people in each of those years, plus 2020 to date, broken down by year, was located within a month along with their firearm(s)?”*

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

An examination of data held by the MOD shows that there is no record of a Service person being absent without leave (AWOL) while in possession of a MOD issued firearm during the period of time specified in your FOI request.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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.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 normally 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://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat