



Ministry  
of Defence

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2 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 30 October 2020 requesting the following information:

“Please may I request under the Freedom of Information Act the following information. The statistics and trends will help support The Royal British Legion develop a future Recovery strategy that meets the needs of WIS, veterans and families.

The information I require is;

- Numbers of personnel who entered recovery from 1 Apr 2015 to 31 Mar 2019
- Of those WIS\_downgraded as at 1 Apr (2015-2019) the percentage with a principal cause of Musculoskeletal injury and percentage with principal cause of mental health.
- Number of WIS personnel Return to Duty (RTD) from 1 Apr 2015 – 31 Mar 2019
- Number of WIS personnel discharged from 1 Apr 2015 – 31 Mar 2019
- Of those who completed the MAC during 1 Apr 2015 – 31 Mar 2019 the percentage which went on to discharge/RTD
- WIS capacity projected over from April 2021 – 31 March 2026
- Target percentage of WIS to Return to Duty April 2021 – 31 March 2026 (Policy percentage/target figure)
- Any trends/graphs that relate to the above 7 requests”

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Please note, section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. This is also in line with the Joint Service Publication 200 (JSP 200), in which numbers fewer than three are suppressed in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

In addition, I have established that information you requested on projected WIS capacity and the target percentage of WIS to return to duty, is not held by the Ministry of Defence.

Information covering the remainder of your request is presented in the accompanying Excel file in the following tables:

**Table 1:** UK trained regular Royal Navy personnel entering and leaving recovery, by outcomes, 12-month rolling period, numbers

**Table 2:** UK trained regular Army personnel entering and leaving recovery, by outcomes, 12 month rolling period, numbers and percentages

**Table 3:** UK trained regular RAF personnel entering and leaving recovery, by outcomes, 12 month rolling period, numbers

**Table 4:** UK trained regular Service personnel in recovery, with a principal cause of downgrading of Musculoskeletal Disorders or Mental and Behavioural Disorders, by Service, numbers and percentages

**Table 5:** UK trained regular Service personnel in recovery who attended the MAC course, by Service and Outcome, numbers

Where graphs showing time trends were available, these have been included underneath the summary tables in the Excel file.

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

The figures provided cover UK Regular Armed Forces personnel receiving support through Defence Recovery Capability (DRC). The DRC is a MOD-led initiative delivered with charitable partnerships. The DRC ensures that UK Armed Forces personnel with battle injuries (wounded), injuries or sickness (WIS) have access to the key services and resources they need to help them either return to duty or make a smooth transition into civilian life.

The DRC comprises of the Royal Navy Recovery Pathway (RNRP), the Army Recovery Capability (ARC) and the RAF Recovery Capability (RRC). The three single Services differ in their criteria for who receives support from recovery. Due to the differences between the three Services, comparisons between them are not valid and as such the three services have been presented separately.

The Multi-Activity Course (MAC) is a recovery course held at the Battle Back Centre, which was established in partnership with the Royal British Legion, uses adaptive sport and adventurous training to aid recovery.

Individuals receiving support from Defence Recovery Capability were identified from the Joint Personnel Administration System (JPA), the Fleet Employment Capability Application (FECA) for the Royal Navy, the Wounded, Injured Sick Management Information System (WISMIS) for the Army and the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) for the RAF. WIS personnel are defined across the services as those who are on Long Term Sick (LTS).

Service personnel with medical conditions or fitness issues which affect their ability to perform their duties are assessed in Primary Care or referred to a Medical Board for a medical examination and review of their medical grading. A medical downgrading occurs when personnel are assigned a Medical Deployability Standard (MDS) of Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) or Medically Not Deployable (MND). The patient may be downgraded to allow for treatment and rehabilitation.

Medical downgradings with a principal cause of Musculoskeletal Injuries and Disorders and Mental and Behavioural Disorders were identified by groups of codes, as defined in the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems Tenth Revision (ICD-10):

- Musculoskeletal disorders (M00 – M99) and Injuries (S00 – T98)

- Mental and behavioural disorders (F00 – F99)

Cause of medical downgrading was compiled using information from the patients' electronic Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) medical record. DMICP has a centralised data warehouse of coded information. It is the source of electronic, integrated medical records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. DMICP was rolled out in 2007 and legacy medical data for currently serving personnel was migrated across during rollout.

Further information on the Defence Recovery Capability can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defence-recovery-and-personnel-recovery-centres>.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing [Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk).

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/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health