



Ministry
of Defence

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1 February 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 September in which you requested the following information:

'How many serving soldiers have taken their life since 2010 to date.

Which barracks is worse affected?'

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 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 and can be found below.

Between 1 January 2010 and 30 September 2020 there were 86 coroner confirmed suicides among UK regular Army personnel in 64 different barracks/camps. Please note that the barrack where an individual's unit was based at their time of death may not be the actual location of where the death occurred. We can advise that between 1 January 2010 and 30 September 2020 the barracks where the most individuals who took their own life were based was Swinton Barracks, Ludgershall. It should be noted that the number of suicides by barrack are small, with no more than four deaths for individuals based at any single barrack over the ten-year period. Due to the small number, caution should be taken in using this information to interpret the worst affected barracks.

The suicide information provided is in line with the definition used by the Office for National Statistics in the publication of National Statistics. There is an obligation for all accidental deaths, and those resulting from violent action, to be referred to coroners in England and Wales and in Northern Ireland, and the Procurator Fiscal in Scotland for investigation. Inquests are usually held within a few months of the death, but occasionally a few years may elapse.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA, you may also wish to know that the MOD publishes an annual summary of UK Armed Forces suicides which includes background information, key points and trends to supplement the figures. This is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-suicide-and-open-verdict-deaths-index>

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