Ref: FOI2021/02471

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21 April 2021

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2021 requesting the following information:

> *"Can you please tell me how many service police investigations there have been outside the UK during the past 5 years (From 2016)*
>
> *Can these be broken down into RMP, RNP and RAF P*
>
> *Can these be further broken down into types of alleged crimes.*
>
> *What is the average number of Service police personnel deployed in a policing role each year from 2016?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information requested has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held and is shown in Annex A to this document.

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.gov.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

1. Can you please tell me how many service police investigations there have been outside the UK during the past 5 years (from 2016)?

A total of 2245 service police investigations have taken place outside the UK during the past 5 years (from 2016)

2. Can these be broken down into RMP, RNP and RAF P.

RNP   -   128 in total from 2016 to 2021
RAF P   -   155 in total from 2016 to 2021
RMP[1]   -   1962 in total from 2016 to 2021

3. Can these be further broken down into types of alleged crimes.

Under section 16 (advice and guidance) of the Freedom of Information Act, please note that the MOD records data as categories that the investigated offences fall under, and not as types of crimes.

4. What is the average number of Service police personnel deployed in a policing role each year from 2016?

This information is exempt under Section 26 (Defence) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is a qualified exemption and has been subject to a Public Interest Test to determine whether the balance for withholding the information outweighs that for disclosure. General arguments in favour of release were that full disclosure would demonstrate the MOD's commitment to openness and transparency, the public's interest in the activity of the Armed Forces, and that releasing such information would make the UK Government more accountable to the electorate. However, releasing information regarding this activity, would likely prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant forces. Given the arguments described above, on balance, it was determined that the information should be withheld.

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[1] Please note that the figures provided by the Army are single Service estimates based on data which is not gathered for statistical purposes or subject to the same level of scrutiny as official statistics produced by Defence Statistics. The figures provided may therefore be subject to data quality issues affecting their accuracy.