



# Ministry of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021, requesting the following information:

"I'm looking for specific stats on the number of WIS personnel currently living in the UK (both those who are in the recovery process or have left the service due to their injuries) - not just those who have been identified as such in the past year.

Additionally, I'm looking for any related stats to these individuals and the impact on their lives currently:

- the physical impact on their lives
- the emotional impact on their lives
- the financial impact on their lives
- the mental impact on their lives
- the impact on their families/friends
- their employment status"

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 some of the information in scope of your request is held.

Following a search of our recorded information, I have established that the information you have requested on the number of WIS personnel currently living in the UK who have left service due to their injuries is not held by the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of Defence does not know the location of all WIS personnel who have left service.

In relation to the information held, I must advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. As part of the recovery support pathway, recovery officers will have discussions with Wounded, Injured and Sick (WIS) personnel about different aspects of their welfare which would likely cover some of the impact topics listed in your request. However, to extract this information from the WIS reporting area would require a manual search which would exceed seven working months of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the MOD holds the following information:

- i. Numbers of WIS personnel in the recovery process who are currently living in the UK. Please note WIS personnel includes all those either wounded, injured or sick.
- ii. Numbers of WIS personnel who have left recovery and a) returned to duty, b) left service or c) deceased since 1 April 2017
- iii. Number of personnel who medically discharged from service broken down by cause of medical discharge. When a medical condition or fitness issue, which could result from an injury, results in an individual unable to perform their duties and alternate employment within the armed forces is not available the individual can be medically discharged. Please note, not all WIS personnel who left recovery and left service medically discharged and, not all personnel who medically discharged were WIS personnel. The MOD publishes an annual statistic, the latest publication presents statistics as at 31 March 2021 and can be found on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/medical-discharges-among-uk-service-personnel-statistics-index>.
- iv. Number of personnel who have been awarded compensation under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the tariff of injury awarded under. The MOD publishes statistics on claims and awards made under the AFCS. The latest publications present statistics as at 31 March 2021 and can be found on the GOV. UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-compensation-scheme-statistics-index>. The accompanying Excel tables found at this link holds statistics back to when the scheme commenced in 2005. Please note, not all WIS personnel are awarded compensation and not all personnel who have been awarded were WIS personnel.
- v. The employment rate, six months after leaving service, for personnel who used a billable Career Transition Partnership (CTP) service. The MOD publishes statistics on the estimated employment outcomes for ex-service personnel who used the services by Career Transition Partnership (CTP) which includes the employment rate of those who medically discharged. The latest publication presents statistics as at 31 March 2020 and can be found on the GOV. UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/career-transition-partnership-ex-service-personnel-employment-outcomes-statistics-index>.

You may find it useful to note the following:

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) have published a Tri-Service recovery policy. This publication was last revised in 2014. It can be found at the link below:

- i. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/480979/FOI\\_04718-JSP\\_770\\_Final\\_v10-U.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480979/FOI_04718-JSP_770_Final_v10-U.pdf)

Defence Statistics previously published statistics on the numbers of wounded, injured and sick UK Armed Forces personnel receiving recovery support from the Defence Recovery Capability. The last publication presents statistics as at 1 April 2017 and can be found on the GOV.UK website:

- i. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-recovery-capability-wounded-injured-and-sick-in-the-recovery-pathway-financial-year-201617>

King's Centre for Military Health Research have published various studies relating to Health in the military, personnel issues, and social policy. Their website can be found below:

- i. <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/kcmhr/research/index>

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](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/>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health