



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI2021/09314

Defence Business Services
Head DBS Secretariat
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MOD Abbey Wood North
Bristol
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DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

10 September 2021

Dear

Thank you for your email of 20 August requesting the following information:

“Could you please tell me how many sick days civil servants in your department have taken each month per month since March 2020?”

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 MOD and I can confirm all information in scope of your request is held. However, the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of an absolute exemption under Section 21 of the FOIA as it is reasonably accessible by other means. As Section 21 is an absolute exemption, there is no requirement to consider the public interest in making the decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note this information is published on a quarterly basis on the following link and included data from March 2020 to March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-civilian-sickness-absence-financial-year-2021/mod-civilian-personnel-sickness-absence-report-1-july-2021>

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.

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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 Business Services Secretariat
