



Ministry  
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 15 December 2021 requesting the following information:

I am interested to find out more about deaths of military personnel due to cardiovascular causes. I note that some data is published. Would you be able to release more precise data regarding the causes of death due to cardiovascular causes over the past 10 years please?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

From 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2020, **65** UK armed forces personnel died from diseases of the circulatory system. **Table 1** below presents this information by ICD10<sup>1</sup> circulatory system blocks as defined in chapter four.

**Table 1: UK regular armed forces deaths by diseases of the circulatory system, numbers. 2011 - 2020**

Cause	n
<b>Diseases of the circulatory system</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Hypertensive diseases (I10-I15)</b>	<b>1</b>
Hypertensive heart disease	1
<b>Ischemic heart diseases (I20-I25)</b>	<b>30</b>
Acute myocardial infarction	12
Chronic ischaemic heart disease	18
<b>Pulmonary heart disease and diseases of pulmonary circulation (I26-I28)</b>	<b>1</b>
Pulmonary embolism	1
<b>Other forms of heart disease (I30-I52)</b>	<b>21</b>
Acute and subacute endocarditis	1
Cardiac arrest	10
Cardiomyopathy	3
Complications and ill-defined descriptions of heart disease	4
Heart failure	1
Nonrheumatic aortic valve disorders	1
Other cardiac arrhythmias	1
<b>Cerebrovascular diseases (I60-I69)</b>	<b>8</b>
Cerebral infarction	1
Intracerebral haemorrhage	1
Other cerebrovascular diseases	1
Stroke, not specified as haemorrhage or infarction	4
Subarachnoid haemorrhage	1
<b>Diseases of arteries, arterioles and capillaries (I70-I79)</b>	<b>3</b>
Aortic aneurysm and dissection	2
Arterial embolism and thrombosis	1
<b>Diseases of veins, lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes, not elsewhere classified (I80-I89)</b>	<b>1</b>
Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis	1

source: Defence Statistics Health

<sup>1</sup> International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems 10th revision

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it useful to note the following:

Due to the small numbers of some causes of circulatory system deaths, deaths have been presented for the whole ten year period in line with Joint Service Publication 200 statistics, guidance for statistical disclosure control.

Defence Statistics Health compiles the Department's authoritative deaths database for all **UK Armed Forces personnel who died whilst in Service** going back to 1984. Information is compiled from several internal and external sources from which we release a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

Defence Statistics receive weekly notifications of all regular armed forces deaths from the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Cell (formerly the single service casualty cells). Defence Statistics also receive cause of death information from military medical sources in the single services. At the end of each calendar year, Defence Statistics cross-reference the medical information it holds against publicly available death certificate information available from NHS Digital and The General Registrar's Office Scotland.

To record information on cause of death, coding is carried out according to World Health Organisation's International Classification of Diseases 10th edition (ICD-10) and internationally agreed rules. Deaths from diseases of the circulatory system were identified as personnel with a principal ICD10 code between I00 and I99.

The information on deaths presented are for the UK regular armed forces, including all trained and untrained personnel and non-regulars who died on deployment are also included since they are classified as 'regular' personnel for the duration of their overseas deployment.

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/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health Head (B1)