



Ministry
of Defence

**Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom**

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

E-mail: Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

Ref: FOI 2021/07564

02 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 13 July 2021 requesting the following information:

I am researching the matter of Veterans suicide and have been looking for some data regarding the level of suicide incidents over the previous 5 years on a month by month basis.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that the information you requested on veteran suicide is not held by the Ministry of Defence.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) you may wish to note the following:

In the Strategy for our Veterans, the UK Government committed to improve the collection and analysis of data on veterans' needs and experiences to inform future policy. The UK Government is developing a data strategy which will improve collection and analysis of information across a wide range of topics, such as veterans' health and wellbeing, mental health, the frequency of suicide, employment, housing and relationships.

We recognise there is more to be done to accurately record veteran suicides, and the Office for Veterans' Affairs, within the Cabinet Office, is working on developing a new and robust method. This work is part of the OVA's broader commitment to improve data collection and analysis, and to ensure the Government has the insights needed to provide the support and services our veterans deserve.

The MOD continues to monitor deaths of those who served in the 1981 Falklands campaign and the 1990/1992 Gulf conflict, to understand the long-term impacts of services. This includes information on suicides and open verdict deaths.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/causes-of-deaths-among-the-uk-armed-forces-veterans-of-the-1982-falklands-campaign>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/causes-of-deaths-that-occurred-among-the-uk-veterans-of-the-199091-gulf-conflict>

In addition, the MOD is finalising a study to track cause of deaths, including suicides, in all personnel who have served in the UK armed forces since 2001 and all future veterans. This study will be updated on an ongoing basis to provide near real-time monitoring of suicides in veterans. The focus of this study is to understand the long-term impact of military service, including recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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). 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