



Ministry of Defence

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Thank you for your email of 21 January 2022 in which you requested the following information:

Can you please provide the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

- *The number of serving British Army personnel who have died at Catterick Garrison since January 1 2017.*
- *The name, age and rank of each person who died.*
- *The cause of each death*

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

In the period 1 January 2017 to 23 January 2022 (latest information available), there have been seven deaths among UK Army personnel where the death occurred at Catterick Garrison or because of an incident that occurred at Catterick Garrison. Table 1 below provides the name, age, rank and cause of death.

**Table 1: UK Army deaths at Catterick Garrison
01 Jan 2017 - 23 Jan 2022**

Name	Age	Reg/Res	Rank	Cause of death
Petero Bulivou	22	Regular	Private	Cancers
Ryan Mackenzie	30	Regular	Lance Corporal	Other accident
Alistair Mcleish	18	Regular	Highlander	Suicide and Open verdicts
Bernard Mongan	33	Regular	Lance Corporal	Cause not currently available
Ratu Soko	31	Regular	Guardsman	Other accident
David Friend	53	Reserve	Warrant Officer Class 2	Diseases of the circulatory system
John McKelvie	51	Reserve	Staff Sergeant	Land Transport Accident

source: Defence Statistics Health

Notes:

1. 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 several internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

2. The information on deaths presented are for regular and reserve Army personnel, including all trained and untrained personnel.
3. 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.
4. When providing statistics on suicides, Defence Statistics Health rely exclusively on the information provided by coroners in England and Wales and in Northern Ireland, and the Procurator Fiscal in Scotland. This ensures the Department's objectivity, as all accidental deaths and those resulting from violent action have to be referred to these officials for investigation. For sake of brevity these sources of information have been labelled collectively as "coroner's verdicts". There is an obligation for all accidental deaths, and those resulting from violent action, to be referred to these officials. Inquests are usually held within a few months of the death, but occasionally a few years may elapse, therefore some recent deaths may not have clearly defined causal information. In these cases, deaths are identified as waiting verdicts and classified as accidents whilst awaiting a Coroner's verdict.
5. The information presented includes coroner-confirmed suicides in line with the definition used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the publication of National Statistics. The National Statistics definition of suicide includes deaths given an underlying cause of intentional self-harm or an injury/poisoning of undetermined intent. In England and Wales, it has been customary to assume that most injuries and poisonings of undetermined intent are cases where the harm was self-inflicted, but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves and thus given an open or narrative verdict by the coroner.
6. All deaths are coded to the International Classification of Diseases 10th edition (ICD-10) which is produced by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Information held in death certificates is analysed and assigned the appropriate ICD code to ensure that deaths included are only those which meet the National Statistics definition of Suicide and these may be a suicide, open verdict or narrative verdict conclusion from the Coroner. The ICD-10 codes are what define suicides and are: ICD-10 codes: X60-X84: intentional self harm; Y10-Y34d: injury or poisoning of undetermined intent; Y87.0 and Y87.2e: sequelae of intentional self harm, injury or poisoning of undetermined intent.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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.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,
Army Policy & Secretariat