



Ministry
of Defence

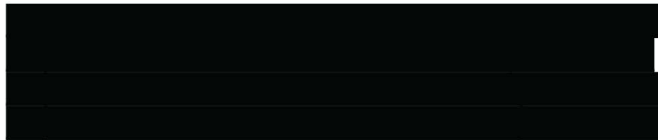
Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

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

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21 January 2021



Dear

Thank you for your emails dated 29 December 2021 and 3 January 2022 requesting the following information:

“Dear Royal Navy, 1. How many staff have been absent due to COVID? Please provide figures for each month. 2. How many of them are women, BAME, disabled, LGBTQ+, under 40, muslim?”

“Dear Ministry of Defence, 1. How many staff have been absent due to COVID? Please provide figures for each month. 2. How many of them are women, BAME, disabled, LGBTQ+, under 40, muslim?”

“Dear British army, 1. How many staff have been absent due to COVID? Please provide figures for each month. 2. How many of them are women, BAME, disabled, LGBTQ+, under 40, muslim?”

“Dear Royal Air Force, 1. How many staff have been absent due to COVID? Please provide figures for each month. 2. How many of them are women, BAME, disabled, LGBTQ+, under 40, muslim?”

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

I can advise following a search of its records MOD holds some of the information you have requested. Staff absence because of COVID-19 are captured as part of routine manual returns to the centre; however, because the information is supplied to the centre as an aggregate return, additional information on the demographic profile (sex, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, age or religion) of the staff affected is not available.

Table 1: MOD¹, Royal Navy, Army and RAF personnel², COVID related absences³ by month, numbers⁴

March 2020 to January 2022

Date	Ministry of Defence	Royal Navy TLB	Army TLB	RAF TLB
26 Mar 2020	21,397	2,226	9,091	4,117
30 Apr 2020	16,422	1,382	10,902	1,511
28 May 2020	13,453	1,101	9,391	1,476
25 Jun 2020	12,583	780	9,429	1,113
30 Jul 2020	11,239	708	8,786	929
27 Aug 2020	10,050	493	8,220	702
24 Sep 2020	9,573	955	7,129	792
29 Oct 2020	11,034	1,327	7,637	1,091
26 Nov 2020	10,702	1,044	7,684	1,061
17 Dec 2020	11,550	658	9,350	928
28 Jan 2021	12,263	1,384	8,388	1,115
25 Feb 2021	9,695	858	7,143	758
25 Mar 2021	8,735	643	6,840	542
29 Apr 2021	7,784	673	6,251	401
20 May 2021	7,072	272	5,943	508
03 Jun 2021	6,979	190	5,879	507
29 Jul 2021	9,979	1,506	6,732	761
26 Aug 2021	7,658	929	5,418	486
23 Sep 2021	2,562	350	1,407	142
21 Oct 2021	2,552	199	1,449	263
18 Nov 2021	2,565	243	1,463	206
16 Dec 2021	2,739	267	1,490	184
20 Jan 2022	8,385	217	6,275	593

Source: Top Level Budget returns

¹ Ministry of defence includes Navy, Army, RAF, UK Strategic Command, Defence Electronics and Components Agency, Defence Equipment & Support, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Defence Nuclear Organisation, Defence Science and Technology Laboratories, Head Office, Oil & Pipelines Agency, Submarine Delivery Agency, UK Hydrographics Office

² Personnel includes all regulars, mobilised reserves and civilians

³ Figures are for reporting categories: confirmed cases, self-isolation (symptoms), self-isolation (other), unable to work (caring responsibilities) and unable to work (other).

⁴ Figure provided as at 21 January 2022. Figures provided are a snapshot of absences as at the last Thursday of each month, or nearest reported time point.

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

Defence Statistics Health collate COVID-19 absence returns from individual Top-Level Budget's (TLBs). In accordance with the Defence Advice Notice (DAN) #12, the MOD require TLBs and all defence enabling organisations to report the number of COVID-19 related absences as of Thursday each week.

Thus, it is not possible to provide the total number of personnel in the department who have been absent due to COVID-19 as the MOD only collects a snapshot of data each week.

Individuals may appear in consecutive weeks or, be absent any day from Friday to Wednesday in a reporting week and return to work on a Thursday and will not be counted in the regular return. The TLB data relies on Defence personnel informing their line management chain that they have had a COVID-19 related absence. Please note that personnel may have had symptoms and/or a positive test and still have been able to work from home, these cases will not be included in the numbers provided in this answer as the data relates to COVID-related absences only.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering deaths in the UK armed forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk.

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