



Ministry
of Defence

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14 June 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 30 May 2022, in which you asked for the following information:

“How many serving soldiers committed suicide while serving in the British Army from 1984 to 2020”.

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

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds this information. The information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistant) please see link below to published UK Armed Forces Suicides Information which contains information on the number of suicides that have occurred among serving armed forces personnel between 1984 and 2020. Table 5 in the ODS or data tables shows numbers and percentages of UK regular Armed Forces suicide and waiting verdict deaths by Service:

[UK armed forces suicides: 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-suicides-2020)

You may also be interested in the updated statistics available here, with similar statistics in Additional Table 6:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-suicides-2021>

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,

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Army Secretariat