



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Abbeywood North
Bristol
BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: 03067 984423

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

Ref: FOI 2022/04774
FOI 2022/04771
FOI 2022/04772

12 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails from 12 April 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), in which you asked the following. We will be considering three requests within this response, FOI 2022/04774, FOI 2022/04771 and FOI 2022/04772.

1. "I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please inform me of the following

- 1. British Army deaths in years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.***
- 2. British Army Cardiac events in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021***

2. I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please inform me of the following

- 1. Royal Navy deaths in years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.***
- 2. Royal Navy Cardiac events in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.***

3. I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please inform me of the following

- 1. Royal Air Force deaths in years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.***
- 2. Royal Air Force Cardiac events in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021."***

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

Regarding the first part of each FOI request on deaths, 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. It is already in the public domain. Information on deaths in the UK armed forces by cause and year is available on the Gov.uk website at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-deaths-in-service-statistics-index>. Accompanying tables to this report present the data by single year from 2012 to 2021.

With regards to questions 1.2, 2.2 and 3.2, the Ministry of Defence requires further information in order to determine whether it holds any information within the scope of your request.

Can you please confirm whether you require information on deaths due to 'cardiac events' or medical conditions for personnel who did not die from their condition.

If the 'cardiac events' section of your request is not about deaths, we require specific information on the medical conditions you are interested in as the category of 'cardiac events' could cover a large range of medical conditions including circulatory diseases. Can you please provide details of the conditions that we should search the medial record for; e.g. 'myocardial infarction' or 'cardiac arrest'. Within the context of the request, we can consider supplying up to six distinct medical conditions within the cost limit under the FOIA.

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

Defence Statistics Health compile data from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) data warehouse. DMICP has a centralised data warehouse of coded information. It is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. DMICP was rolled out in 2007 and legacy medical data for currently serving personnel was migrated across during rollout.

The electronic patient record has information that is Read coded. Read codes are a set of clinical codes designed for Primary Care to record the everyday care of a Patient. They are part of a hierarchical structure and form the recognised standard for General Practice. There are many Read codes spread across different Read code chapters that may have some link to 'cardiac events', hence the need for the requestor to provide a more specific list of medical conditions to be included in searches.

Please note that figures presented on some conditions will be a minimum; this is because their diagnoses are made in secondary care (NHS or private hospitals). A hospital may then advise a military GP of a diagnosis in the form of a letter. A military GP can record this information in a number of ways: a paper letter may be filed in a paper medical record, a letter may be scanned into the electronic patient record (in a pdf format) or the GP may enter Read codes into the electronic patient record which can be searched for electronically. Defence Statistics Health are only able to identify conditions when a Read code has been entered into the electronic patient record.

Please note that Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. Any request which requires a manual search of records may exceed cost under the FOIA.

Once you have clarified your request, I will be pleased to consider it again.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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