



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 14 March 2022 requesting the following information:

I am emailing to request the following information if you have it available.

1. The number of UK Regular Armed Forces personnel with a NFCI recorded between the earliest and the latest available year, split by ethnicity and year.

If it is available, I would greatly appreciate if you could pass it on.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 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. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. In line with JSP200 Statistics Disclosure Guidance, numbers fewer than five are suppressed to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Between 1 January 2010 and 15 March 2022, **4,925** UK regular armed forces personnel had an initial Read code for a non-freezing cold injury (NFCI) entered into their electronic medical record. Of these, **145** were Asian, **1,724** were Black, **2,942** were White, and **114** had an Other or unknown ethnicity. **Table 1** presents a breakdown of these figures by ethnicity and year.

Table 1: UK regular armed forces personnel¹ with an initial record for a non-freezing cold injury, by ethnicity and calendar year, numbers

1 January 2010 to 15 March 2022

Calendar Year	Asian	Black	White	Other or Unknown
All	145	1,724	2,942	114
2010	9	250	411	28
2011	14	137	190	6
2012	40	222	269	10
2013	13	248	291	9
2014	6	168	224	~
2015	11	163	255	9
2016	9	146	267	~
2017	10	102	205	~
2018	10	85	225	11
2019	7	58	198	12
2020	8	54	143	6
2021	~	63	204	6
2022²	~	28	60	5

Source: DMICP & JPA.

1 - UK regular armed forces includes trained and untrained personnel.

2 - Includes data from 1 January 2022 to 15 March 2022 only.

~ In line with JSP 200 figures less than five have been suppressed. Where there was only one cell in a column that was less than five, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

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

Data have been compiled from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) data warehouse. The DMICP programme commenced during 2007 and comprises an integrated primary Health Record (iHR) for clinical use and a pseudo-anonymised central data warehouse. Prior to this data warehouse, medical records were kept locally at each individual medical centre. By 2010, DMICP was in place for the UK and the majority of Germany. Rollout to other overseas locations commenced in November 2011.

DMICP has a centralised data warehouse of Read coded information. It is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers from which searches can be run.

The figures presented are for all UK armed forces trained and untrained personnel with an assignment type of Regular, Gurkha, or Full Time Reserve Service. This response relates to all personnel who had a DMICP record and served between 1 January 2010 (the point at which the majority of the DMICP rollout had been completed) and 15 March 2022, and is not limited to the currently serving population.

Personnel with a NFCl were identified by searching for Read codes in their electronic medical records. The numbers quoted in the text and in Table 1 indicate the number of UK armed forces personnel who had their first Read code entered into their medical record within the period presented. Please note, individuals who have more than one Read code are counted only once, in the year of the earliest entry.

The following Read codes were used to identify any personnel that have had a NFCl:

Code	Description
DMS4248	Non freezing cold injury to feet
DMS4249	Non freezing cold injury to hands
DMS4250	Non freezing cold injury to other
PCS15089NF1	NFCI fully resolved - MFD with medical risk marker
PCS15089NF2	NFCI persists - recommend MLD
PCS15089NF3	NFCI persists - recommend MND
PCS15089NF4	NFCI persists - refer to FMB
PCS15089NF5	NFCI to hands and feet
PCSDT_TRIQQNO19	Non Freezing Cold Injury
SN14	Immersion (trench) foot
TRIQQNF1	NFCI to feet alone
TRIQQNF2	NFCI to hands alone
TRIQQNF3	NFCI to any body part except hands or feet
TRIQQNF4	NFCI to feet and hands or other body part
TRIQQNF5	NFCI f/up - not occupationally protected from cold
TRIQQNO19	Non freezing cold injury
UNCERTAIN-TRIQQNF1	Query - NFCI to feet alone

Please note that if information was entered as free text in the patient record, then it is not available in the DMICP data warehouse and was not retrieved using the search for Read codes.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of data extract: 17 March 2022.

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK armed forces personnel and was used to gather information on the ethnicity of serving personnel.

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