



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence
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Ref: FOI 2023/02991
[REDACTED]

05 April 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your original email dated 06 March 2023 requesting the following information:

"I am seeking statistics on training, or on operations accidents, involving small-arm 9mm pistols over the last 5 years.

Please break them down by Royal Navy (including Royal Marines) Army and RAF."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOI act 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 deciding to withhold the information. The information you requested is enclosed.

Between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022, **25** accidents involving small arms pistols were reported into MOD Health and Safety systems and the Munition Incident Database (MID Cell).

- **fewer than 5** accidents were reported by Royal Navy (including Royal Marines) personnel
- **19** accidents were reported by Army personnel
- **fewer than 5** accidents were reported by RAF personnel
- There was one accident where the service was not recorded

Between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022, **0** UK Armed Forces personnel died from injuries caused by a pistol whilst on training or an operation.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) please note:

Accident has been defined as "an event that results in injury, ill health or death to a person(s)". Incidents reported as near misses or dangerous occurrences have not been included in this response. Any incidents of self-harm, coroner confirmed suicides or deaths where the mechanism of injury indicated possible suicide which may be returned as suicide following an inquest have been excluded from this response.

Injuries include gun-shot wounds, noise induced hearing loss, cuts and sprains.

9mm is the standard round used in Armed Forces pistols; numbers in this response included accidents referencing "pistol" even if "9mm" has not been specified.

Information on injuries and ill health was compiled from the MID Cell and the business area Health and Safety reporting systems.

The MID Cell has a duty of care to capture all Ordnance, Munition and Explosive incidents including accidents, near misses, faults, performance failures and unintended discharges.

Health and Safety Databases

MOD personnel report health and safety incidents using a variety of reporting mechanisms. Since 2005, armed forces personnel and civilians report incidents to Incident Notification Cells or via their on-site Safety, Health, Environment and Fire (SHEF) advisors. Defence Statistics Health then collate this data into a single Health and Safety dataset. The data within this response is collated from the following systems:

- Defence Unified Reporting and Lessons Management System (DURALS)
- Naval Lessons and Information Management System (NLIMS)
- Army Incident Notification Cell (AINC)
- Functional Safety Incident Management System (FSIMS)
- UK Strategic Command
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)
- Defence Equipment and Support Cell (DINC)
- Head Office and Corporate Services (HOCS)

MOD safety systems are live databases and can be updated and have additional information recorded throughout an investigation. Therefore, figures are subject to change and revisions.

For more information on Health and Safety Incidents, please see the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/defence-personnel-health-and-safety-statistics-financial-year-202122>

NOTICAS

Notification of Casualty (or "NOTICAS") is the name for the formalised system of reporting casualties within the UK Armed Forces. NOTICAS information is available from the start of each operation. The NOTICAS reports raised for casualties contain information on how seriously medical staff on operations judge their condition to be. They are not strictly medical categories but are designed to give an indication of the severity of the injury or illness to inform what the individual's next of kin are told.

The NOTICAS system is initiated very early in the patient's admission, the classification of a casualty will change as time progresses. The initial signal listing may in some cases be followed by an updated less serious listing if the case appeared worse on admission than transpires. The listing provided in this publication is only the initial listing for each casualty and not any subsequent listing.

Cause of death information recorded as of 26 March 2023

Any coroner confirmed suicides or deaths where the mechanism of injury indicated possible suicide which may be returned as suicide following an inquest have been excluded from this response.

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.

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.

The information on deaths presented are for the UK regular armed forces, including all trained and untrained personnel and non-regulars who died on deployment are also included since they are classified as 'regular' personnel for the duration of their overseas deployment.

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