



Ministry
of Defence

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Thank you for your email dated 23 July 2023 requesting the following information:

“Please provide numbers of male and female aircrew killed while training or on operations, by year, since 1989.”

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 information in scope of your request is held.

From 1 January 1989 to 30 July 2023, **81** UK armed forces aircrew personnel died whilst on training or exercise or on operations. **Table 1** presents the data by year of death and gender.

**Table 1: UK armed forces aircrew^{1,2} deaths on training and exercise or on operations, numbers³.
1 January 1989 – 30 July 2023**

	All	Male	Female
All	81	81	0
1989	5	5	0
1990	2	2	0
1991	8	8	0
1992	4	4	0
1993	0	-	-
1994	0	-	-
1995	4	4	0
1996	2	2	0
1997	0	-	-
1998	6	6	0
1999	1	1	0
2000	0	-	-
2001	4	4	0
2002	0	-	-
2003	4	4	0
2004	4	4	0
2005	6	6	0
2006	14	14	0
2007	3	3	0
2008	3	3	0
2009	2	2	0

2010	0	-	-
2011	0	-	-
2012	3	3	0
2013	0	-	-
2014	3	3	0
2015	2	2	0
2016	1	1	0
2017	0	-	-
2018	0	-	-
2019	0	-	-
2020	0	-	-
2021	0	-	-
2022	0	-	-
2023	0	-	-

Source: Defence Statistics Health

1. Royal Navy aircrew data was only available from 1999.
2. Army aircrew are those personnel identified as Army Air Corps at the time of their death.
3. Data will include single incidents involving multiple fatalities, for example 12 fatalities in 2006 were the result of a single incident involving a Nimrod aircraft in Afghanistan.

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

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 regular and reservist UK armed forces aircrew personnel only who died whilst on duty and whilst taking part in training or on exercise or on operations. Members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Merchant Navy and MOD civilians were not included.

Defence Statistics release biannual summary statistics on deaths which occurred whilst on training and exercise in the UK Armed Forces since 1 January 2000. The latest report can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/training-and-exercise-deaths-in-the-uk-armed-forces>

Defence Statistics release annual summary statistics on deaths which occurred in operations post World War 2. The latest report can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-armed-forces-operational-deaths-post-world-war-2>

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK armed forces personnel and was used to identify aircrew from 2007 onwards.

Prior to 2007 the single service personnel systems were used to identify Royal Navy and RAF aircrew, however, in the time available for this freedom of information request it was not possible to identify Royal Navy aircrew prior to 1999.

Army aircrew are those who were identified as Army Air Corps personnel at the time of their death. Within the time available for this freedom of information request it was not possible to identify those that were specifically Army aircrew.

Please note there are some personnel where their job role could not be identified, this is due to the historic nature of the records; within the time limits of responding to this freedom of information request we have not included records where job role was not available.

The figures provided in this response are for all UK armed forces aircrew, trained and untrained, regular and reservist. This does not include entitled or non-entitled civilians.

These figures should be treated as an estimate due to quality of historic data.

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/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health Head (B1)