



Defence Business Services
Secretariat
Room 6229
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2023/13761

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

07 December 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 November 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting:

“The number of deaths among serving UK Armed Forces personnel based at each military base between 1 June 2022 and the latest date available.

Please provide totals as well as a breakdown of all deaths, specifying the name, age, rank, the month and year they died, the base at which they were registered at the time of their death, and the cause of death.

Could I also ask that you highlight any cases where the cause of death is not listed as suicide as per Defence Statistics Health, but the mechanism of injury suggests suicide and a coroner’s inquest is yet to begin/conclude?”

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 MOD and I can confirm all information in scope of your request is held. However, some of the information you have requested falls within the scope of the qualified exemptions Section 38 (Health and Safety) and Section 26 (Defence).

Under Section 38 of the FOIA, information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, and under Section 26(1)(b) of the FOIA, information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness, or security of any relevant forces. As both of these are qualified exemptions, it was necessary for the Department to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

The Public Interest Test has now been completed and I can advise that after careful consideration of the information, the balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding specific details for individuals whose death may suggest suicide but have yet to have a Coroner’s inquest completed, to protect the wellbeing of the Next of Kin, and also withholding specific details for several specific deaths, namely name, age, rank and unit location.

I can confirm for the period 1 June 2022 to 31 October 2023, there were 102 deaths among UK Armed Forces personnel. The enclosed Annex A provides the name, age, rank, month and year of death, unit location at the time of death, and cause of death.

All possible suicides that have yet to receive a Coroners verdict have been included in the answer, but there is no marker to identify them. They are categorised as accidents whilst awaiting a Coroner's verdict.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance), you may find it useful to note that Defence Statistics 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 MOD release several internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices.

The information on deaths presented are for UK Armed Forces regular personnel, and only those UK Armed Forces reservists who died whilst deployed on operations as Defence Statistics Health do not routinely receive notification of all reserve deaths.

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.

When providing statistics on suicides, Defence Statistics rely exclusively on the information provided by coroners in England and Wales and in Northern Ireland, and the Procurator Fiscal in Scotland. This ensures the Department's objectivity, as all accidental deaths and those resulting from violent action have to be referred to these officials for investigation. There is an obligation for all accidental deaths, and those resulting from violent action, to be referred to these officials. Inquests are usually held within a few months of the death, but occasionally a few years may elapse, therefore some recent deaths may not have clearly defined causal information. In these cases, deaths are identified as waiting verdicts and classified as "Other Accident" for cause of death, whilst awaiting a Coroner's verdict.

The information presented for suicides includes coroner-confirmed suicides in line with the definition used by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the publication of National Statistics. The National Statistics definition of suicide includes deaths given an underlying cause of intentional self-harm or an injury/poisoning of undetermined intent. In England and Wales, it has been customary to assume that most injuries and poisonings of undetermined intent are cases where the harm was self-inflicted, but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves and thus given an open or narrative verdict by the coroner. The convention of including both suicide and open verdicts has been adopted across the UK. In accordance with ONS practice, throughout, the term 'suicide' should be understood to include all suicide and open verdict deaths.

All deaths are coded to the International Classification of Diseases 10th edition (ICD-10) which is produced by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Information held in death certificates is analysed and assigned the appropriate ICD code to ensure that deaths included are only those which meet the National Statistics definition of Suicide, and these may be a suicide, open verdict or narrative verdict conclusion from the Coroner. The ICD-10 codes which define suicides are: X60-X84: intentional self-harm; Y10-Y34d: injury or poisoning of undetermined intent; Y87.0 and Y87.2e: sequelae of intentional self-harm, injury or poisoning of undetermined intent.

In line with the definitions in ICD-10, a land transport accident is defined as any accident involving a device that has been designed for, or is being used at the time for, the conveyance of either goods or people from one place to another on land. The scope of this definition covers incidents that occur on and off the public highways and incidents that involve non-motorised forms of transport and does NOT include any deaths occurring in a vehicle as a result of Hostile

Action. The definition therefore includes all occupational specific vehicles (specific to the UK Armed Forces) irrespective of where the accident took place. Road traffic accidents refer only to accidents on a public road.

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,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)

UK Armed Forces deaths 1 June 2022 to 31 October 2023

Name	Age	Rank	Date of death	Unit location	Cause of death
Andrew Haldane	45	Lieutenant Colonel	June 2022	COLCHESTER	Suicide and Open verdicts
Timothy Rowley	46	Senior Aircraftman	June 2022	LINCOLN	Cancers
Sophie Madden	23	Gunner	June 2022	NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE	Suicide and Open verdicts
Max George	26	Second Lieutenant	June 2022	BULFORD	Land Transport Accident
Gavin Law	33	Major	June 2022	CANBERRA	Other accident
Rohan Hicks	21	Able Rating Class 1	June 2022	YEOVIL	Land Transport Accident
Jake Morley	23	Marine	July 2022	HELENSBURGH	Other accident
Ian Harper	35	Corporal	July 2022	COLCHESTER	Suicide and Open verdicts
Adam Hall	29	Lance Sergeant (Corporal)	July 2022	WINDSOR	Suicide and Open verdicts
Daniel Cussans	43	Petty Officer	July 2022	YEOVIL	Land Transport Accident
Daniel Law	24	Senior Aircraftman	July 2022	NORTHALLERTON	Other accident
Mark Keith	38	Lance Corporal	July 2022	LEUCHARS	Cancers
Gordon Henderson	40	Wing Commander	July 2022	HIGH WYCOMBE	Other accident
Ross Burnside	27	Bombardier	July 2022	LARKHILL	Suicide and Open verdicts
Brett Webster	47	Lieutenant Colonel	July 2022	CATTERICK	Other accident
Connor Morrison	20	Sapper	July 2022	IPSWICH	Diseases of the circulatory system
Richard Wilkinson	48	Chief Petty Officer	August 2022	HELSTON	Diseases of the circulatory system
Information withheld			August 2022	Information withheld	Other accident
Graham Street	58	Chief Petty Officer	August 2022	PLYMOUTH	Cancers
Paul Killpartrick	42	Lieutenant (RN)	August 2022	PORTSMOUTH	Cancers
Connor Tweed	19	Sapper	August 2022	FORRES	Other accident
Christopher Bamber	43	Sergeant	August 2022	LINCOLN	Cancers
Ryan Geraghty	38	Warrant Officer Class 2	August 2022	TIDWORTH	Cancers
William Beal	21	Trooper	August 2022	WARMINSTER	Land Transport Accident
James Coleman	31	Sergeant	September 2022	CATTERICK	Suicide and Open verdicts
Scott Meredith	52	Colonel	September 2022	ANDOVER	Other accident
Philip Knowles	21	Private	September 2022	DHEKELIA	Land Transport Accident

Robert Myers	39	Private	September 2022	LISBURN	Land Transport Accident
Marcus Littler	51	Warrant Officer	September 2022	HOLYHEAD	Other diseases
Jack Burnell-Williams	18	Trooper	September 2022	LONDON	Other accident
Robert Minshull	42	Petty Officer	October 2022	HELSTON	Suicide and Open verdicts
Kyran Carney	19	Able Rating Class 2	October 2022	TORPOINT	Land Transport Accident
Andrew Waddington	40	Lieutenant (RN)	October 2022	HELENSBURGH	Cause not currently available
Colin Reason	42	Warrant Officer Class 2	October 2022	CWMBRAN	Suicide and Open verdicts
Dean Walton	36	Sergeant	October 2022	COLCHESTER	Other accident
Tracey Mackenzie-Rayner	50	Major	October 2022	CATTERICK	Cancers
Jonathan Bishop	52	Chief Petty Officer	October 2022	PORTSMOUTH	Cancers
Benjamin Pachuau	32	Corporal	October 2022	BLACKWATER	Other diseases
Gregor Seddon	21	Private	November 2022	LONDON	Cause not currently available
Owain Rogers	37	Leading Hand	November 2022	HELENSBURGH	Cancers
Joshua Kennington	18	Private	November 2022	CATTERICK	Cause not currently available
Ryan Curtis	35	Corporal	November 2022	PLYMOUTH	Cancers
Daniel Cox	24	Leading Hand	December 2022	HELSTON	Land Transport Accident
Callum Gilbert	23	Leading Hand	December 2022	HELSTON	Land Transport Accident
Andrew Kemp	41	Sergeant	December 2022	BASINGSTOKE	Suicide and Open verdicts
Lesley Rankin	49	Major	January 2023	CATTERICK	Cancers
Alexander Rogers	49	Commander	January 2023	PLYMOUTH	Cause not currently available
Jay Whiting	21	Rifleman	January 2023	CHEPSTOW	Land Transport Accident
Tony Arthur	43	Corporal	January 2023	NOTTINGHAM	Cancers
Shambhu Shrestha	23	Rifleman	January 2023	FOLKESTONE	Suicide and Open verdicts
Simon Bailey	31	Senior Aircraftman	January 2023	BURY ST EDMUNDS	Suicide and Open verdicts
Patrick Mitchell	48	Corporal	January 2023	BULFORD	Cause not currently available
Taylor Cole	20	Lance Corporal	January 2023	BULFORD	Other accident
James Savell	59	Warrant Officer Class 2	January 2023	GOSPORT	Diseases of the circulatory system
Benjamin Thomas	24	Leading Hand	January 2023	TORPOINT	Suicide and Open verdicts
Adrian Gillespie	57	Wing Commander	February 2023	CASTEAU	Cause not currently available
Samantha Evans	44	Captain	February 2023	TIDWORTH	Cancers
Keane Smirthwaite	22	Lance Corporal	February 2023	PERHAM DOWN	Other accident
Ebrima Nyabally	19	Signalman	February 2023	BLANDFORD FORUM	Other accident
Gavin Brooks	45	Warrant Officer Class 2	March 2023	BULFORD	Cancers

Timothy Oakes	42	Major	March 2023	PORTSMOUTH	Cancers
Stephen Brown	40	Chief Petty Officer	March 2023	CHELTENHAM	Cancers
Joshua Forster	28	Lance Corporal	March 2023	SAFFRON WALDEN	Other accident
Kai Macnaughton	53	Squadron Leader	March 2023	WARMINSTER	Cancers
Richard Melia	40	Colour Sergeant	April 2023	ROYSTON	Other accident
Daniel Rose	24	Private	April 2023	CATTERICK	Land Transport Accident
Stuart Brett	58	Chief Petty Officer	April 2023	FAREHAM	Cancers
Jon Paxton	38	Petty Officer	April 2023	PORTSMOUTH	Other accident
Manikumar Gurung	35	Corporal	April 2023	KATHMANDU	Land Transport Accident
Jake Rendall	17	Private	April 2023	EDINBURGH	Other accident
Christopher Watson	35	Corporal	April 2023	LEUCHARS	Land Transport Accident
Gareth Pearce	44	Sergeant	May 2023	LINCOLN	Suicide and Open verdicts
Gareth Thomas	42	Sergeant	May 2023	AKROTIRI	Diseases of the circulatory system
Dominic Twaites	25	Able Rating Class 2	May 2023	HMS ALBION	Cause not currently available
Joanne Chambers	39	Lieutenant Commander	June 2023	PORTSMOUTH	Cancers
Israel Delanimati	24	Rifleman	June 2023	EDINBURGH	Other accident
Andrew Greenhalgh	39	Sergeant	June 2023	CASTEAU	Cause not currently available
Lincoln Jones	45	Sergeant	June 2023	ALDERSHOT	Cancers
Craig Agar	24	No Value	June 2023	LINCOLN	Land Transport Accident
Jack Bray	31	Corporal	June 2023	YEOVIL	Land Transport Accident
Wayne Birnie	38	Corporal	June 2023	CHEPSTOW	Land Transport Accident
Information withheld			June 2023	Information withheld	Land Transport Accident
Nike Baumber	22	Craftsman	July 2023	COTTESMORE	Cause not currently available
Perry Sturgess	34	Sergeant	July 2023	BASINGSTOKE	Land Transport Accident
Malik Bunton	21	No Value	July 2023	NORTHALLERTON	Other accident
Robert Bowering	31	Musician.	July 2023	TIDWORTH	Cause not currently available
Dion Smith	21	Able Rating Class 2	July 2023	HMS ASTUTE	Other accident
Information withheld			July 2023	Information withheld	Cancers
Nicholas Coles	36	Major	August 2023	ANDOVER	Other accident
Ben Watts	45	Lieutenant Colonel	August 2023	LONDON	Cause not currently available
James Madeley	21	Leading Hand	August 2023	PLYMOUTH	Cancers
Ian Partridge	55	Squadron Leader	August 2023	LINCOLN	Cause not currently available
Mark Simpson	35	Lieutenant (RN)	August 2023	PORTSMOUTH	Cause not currently available
Steffan Rees	29	Able Rating Class 1	August 2023	YEOVIL	Other accident

Charlie Owen	25	Lance Corporal	September 2023	WINDSOR	Other accident
Adam Brocklehurst	27	Private	September 2023	CATTERICK	Land Transport Accident
Nabin Thapa	35	Private	September 2023	THIRSK	Cause not currently available
Robert Hawkins	63	Commander	October 2023	DUNFERMLINE	Diseases of the circulatory system
James Eade	48	Flight Sergeant	October 2023	OXFORD	Cancers
Richard Smith	38	Lieutenant Commander	October 2023	ANDOVER	Other accident
Christopher Millar	25	Craftsman	October 2023	INVERNESS	Cause not currently available
Apisalome Rawaidranu	38	Private	October 2023	CATTERICK	Cancers

Source: Defence Statistics Health