



Ministry  
of Defence



FOI2021/04457

E-mail: [NAVYACNS-SECFOIGroup@mod.gov.uk](mailto:NAVYACNS-SECFOIGroup@mod.gov.uk)



25 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 26 April 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'How many personnel sailing with the Carrier Strike Group declined to have Covid vaccines when offered?

If possible please break this down by vessel and nationality.'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held as at 29 April 2021. There were twelve UK personnel who had declined the offer of a vaccination. With regard to foreign vessels, this information is not held as Force Health Protection and vaccination of individuals was a national responsibility for all partner nations.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, it should be noted that COVID vaccination requires the informed consent of the patient and the number declining vaccination is therefore dynamic and will fluctuate with time. Defence policy directs that Service personnel should be given the information to make them fully aware of the benefits and risks associated with any vaccination before accepting or declining the offer. This is part of the informed consent process and applies to all vaccinations including COVID.

With the vaccination programme ongoing over the last few weeks, I can confirm that the number of personnel sailing with the Carrier Strike Group who have declined the COVID vaccine is now zero.

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.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section