



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2022/11421

E-mail: NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

19 October 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 October 2022, in which you requested the following information:

Thank you for your full and swift reply to my last FOI request
https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Frequest%2Fsuicides_in_the_infantry%23incoming-2141507&data=05%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7C04e020160a744f78da6b08daa87c7441%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C1%7C638007549720914982%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8UKPhO7nXgGAKf6znNnso7j61QtFaFFQ1lpi25edBow%3D&reserved=0

I'd now like to make a follow-up request for the same information for the Royal Marines. Can you please tell me:

1. How many suicides in the navy between 2001 and 2020 were of personnel in the Royal Marines.
2. The number of Royal Marines personnel in each year between 2001 and 2020.

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

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

In response to part one of your request, in the period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2020, there were 10 coroner confirmed suicides among UK regular Royal Marine (RM) personnel.

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 a number of internal analyses and external National Statistics Notices. The information presented has been compiled from data held by Defence Statistics on 12 October 2022.

The information presented 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.

Figures are for regular personnel and only those reservists who have died whilst on operational deployment as Defence Statistics Health do not routinely receive notification of all reserve deaths. Figures also include both trained and untrained personnel

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, you may also be interested to know that Defence Statistics Health produce an annual National Statistic on Suicide in the UK Armed Forces which is released at the end of March every year.

In response to part two of your request, information regarding the number of RM personnel in each year between 2001 and 2020 can be found at Annex A to this letter.

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 CIQ-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

Table 1. Strength of Trained Regular Royal Marines as at 1 April 2001 – 2020:

	Total Strength
01-Apr-01	6114
01-Apr-02	6136
01-Apr-03	6336
01-Apr-04	6505
01-Apr-05	6406
01-Apr-06	6463
01-Apr-07	6551
01-Apr-08	6631
01-Apr-09	6737
01-Apr-10	7056
01-Apr-11	7381
01-Apr-12	7215
01-Apr-13	6848
01-Apr-14	7048
01-Apr-15	7016
01-Apr-16	6881
01-Apr-17	6747
01-Apr-18	6388
01-Apr-19	6169
01-Apr-20	5939

Source: Analysis(Navy)

