



Ministry
of Defence

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3 September 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 13 August 2024 in which you clarified your request for the following information:

- 1. the numbers of cases 'TRiMmed' under the Trauma Risk Management programme used by the British Army in Helmand province, Afghanistan, between 1 Jan 2008 to 31 Dec 2013. By this I mean the number of TRiM sessions carried out, as each session was required to be evidenced by a form in line with LAND FORCES STANDING ORDER NO 3217. Clarified as the number of British Army, Op Herrick cases deemed traumatic enough to warrant TRiM activity. Data for both TRiM risk assessments or individuals risk assessed, evidenced by a TRiM logbook.*
- 2. In addition, could you provide the number or proportion of these TRiM sessions that were then referred to seniors for further support/intervention. Clarified as data for both medical and broader emotional support. If a unit kept a TRiM logbook.*
- 3. Finally, please could you provide any documentation from senior officers/military leaders relating to the efficacy of TRiM as a policy. Clarified as: Land Forces Standing Order (LFSO) 3217 Trauma Risk Management*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 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, with the exception of information for 2008.

I can advise that some of the information in scope of part two of your request falls entirely within the scope of the exemption provided for at Section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been redacted. Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018.

Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise, this exercise involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against the legitimate interests in disclosure, this is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions in FOIA. The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the absolute exemption in section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interests test,

as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise lay in withholding the third-party personal data identified in the attached information.

Information requested at part three of your request is held but is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain. Section 21 of the Act is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information. The information requested, scoped as Land Forces Standing Order 3217 can be accessed here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033235/20210609-FOI_05462_redacted_final_Redacted.pdf

Information held in relation to parts one and two of your request have been provided in the table and notes below.

The following details are held for: **OP HERRICK (Army) (2009-2023)**:

Year	No of TRiM events (cases)	Number of Army Personnel TRiM processed	Total no of Army Personnel signposted	Confirmed signposted to medical (from previous column) ¹	Remarks
2008					No data and logbooks held for 2008.
2009	218	895	35	14	
2010	131	813	14	7	
2011	79	605	C	C	
2012	190	1415	42	6	
2013	65	85	18	C	

1. At the time, the logbook did not have facility to record where the Service Person was signposted to. We do not know where they had been signposted to unless the TRiM coordinators or practitioners have written in free text. So, the number of Service Personnel signposted to medical could be higher.

2. Please note that the figures provided are single Service estimates based on data which is not gathered for statistical purposes or subject to the same level of scrutiny as official statistics produced by Defence Statistics. The figures provided may therefore be subject to data quality issues affecting their accuracy.

3. "C" stands for Confidential and denotes five or below.

4. After a TRiM risk assessment, Service Personnel are signposted to second line support (Chain of Command, Padre, Unit Welfare Officer and Regimental Medical Officer) for further support and intervention if it deems necessary. The second line supports may then escalate to other support i.e. mental health professionals. The scope of logbooks in our archive stops at second line support.

5. Rank range for the TRiM course is Lance Corporal to Major.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) is a unit level peer led psychological support process initiated after a traumatic event. The unit Chain of Command with help from TRiM manager (lead coordinator) decide if the event is a TRiM event.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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). 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,

Personnel Leader B
Army Policy and Secretariat