

Background Quality Report

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MOD Health and Safety Statistics: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time, 2021/22 – 2025/26

The purpose of a background quality report is to inform users of the statistics about the quality of the data used to produce the publication, and any statistics derived from that data. It also discusses existing uses of the statistics and user requirements.

This assessment relates to the 'MOD Health and Safety Annual Statistics' published by Defence Statistics Health.

1. Contact

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2. Introduction and Statistical Presentation

These annual MOD Health and Safety Official Statistics have been developed to inform internal and external users of the numbers of MOD health and safety incidents and to identify trends in health and safety incidents over time. Providing additional statistics on demographic groups, and the types of events and activities increases the amount of information readily available, therefore reducing the burden of requests for such information.

This report provides summary statistics on UK Armed Forces personnel, Ministry of Defence (MOD) Civilian personnel, Other Civilians, and Cadet Forces personnel with reported deaths, injuries, ill health, near miss or dangerous occurrences incidents on duty at MOD property or injured in or by MOD vehicles.

The following information is provided:

- Numbers of safety related deaths, by cause between 2021/22 and 2025/26.
- Summary of reported ill health, near misses and dangerous occurrences between 2021/22 and 2025/26.
- Summary of reported injury for UK Armed Forces (by Service) and civilians in 2025/26, including demographic breakdowns.
- Time trend charts presenting the numbers and rates per 1,000 of all reported injury incidents between 2021/22 and 2025/26.
- Summary of Accidents categorised as 'minor', 'serious' and 'specified' as defined by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
- Summary of reported injuries for Regular and Reserve Armed Forces in 2025/26 by type of activity.
- Summary of ill health incidents reported on MOD health and safety systems in 2025/26.
- Summary of reported near misses and dangerous occurrences reported on MOD health and safety systems in 2025/26.
- Supplementary tables in MS Excel provide additional information on the numbers and rates per 1,000 personnel at risk of reported injury. Additional breakdowns for various variables are also provided in these tables, such as gender, age, training status, etc.

This Statistical Bulletin is published as an Official Statistic, adhering to the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) protocols on [pre-release access](#).

3. Statistical Processing

3.1 Source Data

3.1.1 *Health and Safety Data Sources*

Health and Safety incidents are currently compiled using data provided from the following Top-Level Budget (TLB) reporting areas and systems:

- Army Safety Centre Incident Notification System (INS) – 1 April 2021 to 7 August 2025
- Defence Equipment and Support Cell (DINC) – 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2025
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation Incident Notification System (DIO-INS) – 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation Contractors (DIO-CON) – 1 April 2021 to 30 October 2024
- Defence Nuclear Organisation (DNO) – 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2025
- MySafety (formerly known as Defence Unified Reporting and Lessons Management System (DURALS)) – 10 January 2022 to 31 March 2026
- Department Of State (DOS) (formerly known as Head Office and Corporate Service (HOCS)) – 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026
- Cyber & Specialist Operations Command (CSOC) (formerly known as UK Strategic Command (StratCom)) – 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026
- RAF Functional Safety Information Management System (FSIMS) – 1 May 2021 to 19 November 2024
- Naval Service Information Management System (NLIMS) – 1 April 2021 to 9 April 2025

From 2012 onwards the Top-Level Business areas (TLBs) in Defence each held their own H&S incident reporting systems (see above). These systems were developed independently over the years to meet the needs and definitions of the different business areas. In January 2022, the Army and Strategic Command moved over to a new reporting system; MySafety (formerly known as DURALS), which was designed to be a 'unified' system which could be adapted by all business areas. The RAF transitioned to MySafety in November 2024, and other TLBs including the Royal Navy moved onto the system in April 2025.

As each business area moved onto MySafety, the type of data processing and compilation that was needed by Defence Statistics changed. MySafety is still developing in an agile manner, meaning that Defence Statistics methodologies need continually updating to remain in step with the system.

3.1.2 *Death Data Sources*

Defence Statistics receives weekly notifications of Armed Forces deaths from the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) in accordance with the Joint Service Publication 751: Joint Casualty & Compassionate Policy & Procedures. The JCCC provides a focal point for casualty administration and notification. Defence Statistics also

receive cause of death information from military medical sources in the single Services, death certificates and coroner's inquests.

Defence Statistics regularly checks all deaths for information on coroner's verdicts (England and Wales) and the results of investigations by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) for Scotland. For Northern Ireland, Defence Statistics liaise with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) who handle the official information on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office. 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 cause information.

3.1.3 Administrative Data Sources

The Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System and the Human Resources Management System (HRMS and MyHR) are used to capture people and military characteristic information for Armed Forces personnel and MOD Civilian staff respectively.

3.2 Data Collection

Figures are based on Top Level Budget (TLB) business area data recorded by each individual TLB within their own notification cells. Defence Statistics have direct access to four of the datasets (MySafety, INS, NLIMS, FSIMS) for routine extracts; FSIMS reporting transferred to MySafety in November 2024 and NLIMS reporting transferred to MySafety in April 2025. Weekly datasets are provided by Defence Infrastructure Organisation Incident Notification System and monthly datasets are provided by Defence Equipment and Support; DE&S reporting transitioned to MySafety in July 2025. Quarterly datasets are provided by Cyber & Specialist Operations (CSOC) (formerly known as UK Strategic Command (StratCom)) and Military Defence Police (MDP); MDP reporting transitioned to MySafety in April 2025. Other Department of State (DOS) (formerly known as Head Office and Corporate Service) organisations and Defence Infrastructure Organisation Contractors provide annual extracts.

Each individual TLB is responsible for ensuring the quality of data supplied to Defence Statistics. Defence Statistics Health carry out basic consistency and validation checks to ensure data integrity. Where inconsistencies are identified, Defence Statistics contacts the data provider to inform them of any issues found to attempt to get them resolved.

3.3 Data Validation

Defence Statistics checks the integrity of source data by running checks to verify that the data is complete, accurate and free of errors or inconsistencies. This includes checking for missing values, data format errors, and logical inconsistencies in the dataset. Where any of the above issues remain, Defence Statistics carries out several steps to resolve them.

Further validation checks are carried out after the data have been processed to ensure that all processes and calculations have been carried out correctly and that final numbers are an accurate reflection of the data received from TLBs. Manual checks are then carried out on the final report to ensure that the figures quoted in the commentary reflect those in the tables and that the numbers sum to the totals provided.

3.4 Data Compilation

The data is compiled by using key fields that exist in all datasets which uniquely identify each record across all the sources. The structure, format and data types are reviewed and aligned to ensure the datasets are compatible for merges. If necessary, transformations are performed to align formats and data types.

For the following created fields, the related raw fields across each reporting system offer various options. Defence Statistics reassigns these raw inputs into standardised categories to facilitate comparison and clearer presentation. This process also ensures that trends can be maintained over time, unaffected by changes in reporting systems.

Defence Statistics carries out processing of the data by taking the information entered in both raw data fields and free text to create new fields of reporting categories. These reporting categories are used in the Official Statistic and other internal reports. Additional fields are created to provide extra groupings and breakdowns of the data supplied. This includes:

- Incident Type (e.g. injury, ill health, near miss, hazard observation, dangerous occurrence),
- Activity,
- Additional demographic information.

3.4.1 *Incident Type*

Defence Statistics categorises incidents into various incident types. Prior to the release of the financial year 2024/25 Official Statistic, this categorisation was performed using code, supplemented by the manual assignment of a substantial number of records across all relevant data sources. Since then, Defence Statistics has developed new code to automatically assign incident types for records within MySafety, resulting in a significant reduction in the volume of records requiring manual classification. This processing enhancement has been implemented exclusively for MySafety. Given the ongoing transition of organisations onto the MySafety platform, it was deemed unnecessary to replicate this process improvement for other data sources, which are scheduled to migrate to MySafety in due course.

Reports in the MySafety system are captured in the following categories: accident, incident, near miss, or hazard observation. To ensure consistency in occurrence classification across multiple reporting platforms, and for consistency with trend information, Defence Statistics reclassifies as below:

- Accidents are subdivided into 'injury' and 'ill health' occurrences, based on the nature of the injury or symptoms recorded.
- Incidents are divided into 'damage' and 'environmental', with the classification determined by whether the environmental flag has been checked in the reporting system. Environmental incidents are added to the 'near miss' category if nobody was injured. Damage incidents are not included in the official stat presentation as this is a new functionality in MySafety with the vast majority of reports being minor vehicle damage with no risk to personal safety. (Please see 3.4.9 for more details). Vehicle incidents resulting in injury are captured within the 'Accident' category, vehicle incidents where there was a potential of injury are captured within the 'Near Miss' category.

As part of the efforts to enhance the processing code for MySafety, the methodology for categorising reports involving an affected person classified as a Witness was revised. This improvement enabled the identification of potential duplicate records within the data.

3.4.2 *Activity*

For all data sources, detailed activity data is consolidated and categorised into one of four main groups. This is due to the large number of different types of activity detail captured across all the reporting systems. This approach enables the standardisation of numerous distinct activities across different reporting systems, making the categories easier to understand and allowing for clearer presentation within the statistic.

Accidents and near misses reported into MySafety are categorised into one of the main four activity groups (Training and Exercise, Adventure Training, Sport/Recreation, Normal Duties) using an automated process where a lookup and free text search is used to identify the activity group. Defence Statistics, to some extent, relies on free text entered by the individual reporting the incident, if the information provided in the data is ambiguous then the resulting categorisation may be incorrect. This is a data quality issue which is the responsibility of each TLB.

For other sources, Defence Statistics manually categorise reports into one of the main four activity groups. A range of source data fields, such as raw activity and incident summary, are used to identify which of the four categories each report falls into.

3.4.3 *Mechanism of Injury*

Prior to April 2016, Defence Statistics manually coded the health and safety data and categorised the incidents into what activity caused the health and safety incident, this field was known as Mechanism of Injury. For example, if someone fell over on a wet floor whilst on Adventure Training it would have been categorised as Built Estate Infrastructure not Adventure Training. From 1 April 2016 until April 2023 Defence Statistics altered this process by creating an automated code to improve consistency and remove manual bias. In doing this, two additional categories were added to provide further clarity to 1) the activity a person was doing whilst the incident occurred and 2) the injury mechanism of that particular incident.

The creation of the 'injury mechanism' for the incident (presented as 'Mechanism of Injury') was a lengthy process as the automatic coding could not generate reliable categories across Defence due to differences in definitions and categories in each business area. Therefore, this variable required lengthy additional manual checks to allocate incidents to categories to allow meaningful comparison across Defence. The statistical team were unable to carry out the manual review of thousands of records that would have been required to generate this variable from April 2023 onwards, therefore this variable was removed from the supplementary tables and bulletin in the 2023/24 financial year report.

In October 2023, a new data field was introduced to the MySafety (previously DURALS) reporting system to align with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) classification for 'mechanism of injury'. This classification comprises six categories, along with an 'Unknown' category. This variable was reintroduced into the statistics for records reported during the 2024/25 financial year. Since MySafety is the only system that records this variable using these specific categories, and given the extensive manual effort required to categorise records from other sources to create consistent categories across Defence,

any TLBs not reporting through the MySafety system will be classified under the 'Unknown' category. Additionally, as a single report can include multiple mechanisms of injury, figures involving this variable may not sum to the overall totals. During the 2024/25 financial year, the Army, Strategic Command and the RAF were reporting incidents on MySafety. During the 2025/26 financial year, the Navy, DE&S, DSA, DBS, MDP, MGS, SSG and SDG (formerly SDA) began to report incidents on MySafety. With the integration of more TLBs into MySafety, the mechanism of injury is now available for a larger proportion of reports.

3.4.4 Demographic Information

For records where service/staff numbers are provided they are matched with the JPA and MyHR personnel systems to complete the demographic information (such as age, gender, officer/rank, trained/untrained status, regular/reserve/civilian status). Where no information is available on the personnel databases (after matching) or a service/staff number is not recognised or not provided, information from free text on the original incident record is used where possible to complete the demographic information. Please note, it may only be possible to identify the service and assignment type from the free text if this has been included. Free text does not contain information of gender or age.

For the production of the 2024/25 statistic, new methods were introduced to enable more accurate matching between health and safety and demographic records. This was applied retrospectively to the full 5 year period, and allowed the matching of more records for all financial years when compared to the previous official statistic, in particular there was an increase in the number of civilian records matched, which could therefore be categorised correctly, rather than being 'unknown'. These methods have been used for all publications since then.

3.4.5 Duty Status

From 2023/24 financial year report onwards Defence Statistics introduced a new data compilation criteria which ensured that only incidents that occurred on duty, on MOD property or involving MOD vehicles, were included in official statistic reporting. There were increasing numbers of off duty reports being submitted through the MySafety reporting system that would have otherwise disrupted the trend information provided and would have presented information that is outside the scope of this statistic.

For the 2024/25 financial year report, this rule was applied retrospectively for all financial years within scope. This resulted in some figures that were previously presented being revised to a lower figure, where incidents categorised as off duty were removed.

3.4.6 Duplicate records

From the 2024/25 financial year report onwards, a revised approach was implemented to identify and address duplicate and missing health and safety reports within the official statistical dataset. These methodologies included more rigorous comparisons between different data sources, in which numerous cross source duplicates were identified and excluded. Additionally, an improvement in data storage, led to the identification of records that were missed in previous statistic releases. The new methodologies were retrospectively applied to all financial years covered by the 2024/25 statistic, resulting in the revision of certain figures in that report.

Further to this, for the 2025/26 financial year report, the methodology for categorising reports involving an affected person classified as a 'Witness' was revised. This revision was necessary following the introduction of witness reporting in MySafety, which allows users to report incidents they witnessed but weren't involved in. This improvement enabled the identification of potential duplicate records within the data, which occur when someone creates an independent witness report for an incident that has already been reported by someone else.

3.4.7 Dangerous Occurrences

From the 2025/26 financial year report onwards, Defence Statistics has revised its methodology for presenting Dangerous Occurrences. Previously, 'Dangerous Occurrence' was a distinct category. This approach resulted in records involving both a 'Dangerous Occurrence' and an 'Injury' being classified as 'Injury', thereby excluding them from the 'Dangerous Occurrence' count. Similarly, incidents involving both a 'Dangerous Occurrence' and a 'Near Miss' were categorised as 'Dangerous Occurrence' and so were not reflected in the Near Miss figures.

The updated methodology introduces 'Dangerous Occurrence' as an overlapping category, enabling each record to retain its primary incident type, such as 'Injury' or 'Near Miss', while simultaneously being flagged as a 'Dangerous Occurrence'. This enhancement ensures more accurate and comprehensive reporting across all incident categories. This methodological update resulted from Defence Statistics' improvements to data processing, alongside enhancements to the MySafety system that increased the accuracy of dangerous occurrence reporting by providing users with clearer guidance on what constitutes a dangerous occurrence, and more guided data entry of reports.

These changes have been implemented for the 2025/26 financial year report, with the change being implemented for the last two financial years of data. Data prior to financial year 2024/25 has not been updated to maintain consistency across releases.

3.4.8 Hazard Observation and Near Miss

For the 2025/26 financial year report onwards, 'Hazard Observation' incidents will be presented separately from 'Near Miss' incidents. This adjustment reflects changes implemented within the MySafety reporting system, which now distinguishes these two categories.

A Hazard Observation refers to an instance where a hazard was identified but did not affect any individual. In contrast, a Near Miss describes an event in which a person was impacted by a hazard but did not sustain any injury or ill health symptoms. Consequently, this change is expected to result in a reduction in the reported number of Near Miss occurrences.

Other reporting systems are not designed to capture hazard observations, however, they may have been reported and captured as near miss occurrences. Without the means to differentiate between near miss and hazard observation occurrences in these systems, it is possible for hazard observations to be presented within the near miss category.

These changes have been implemented for the 2025/26 financial year report, with the change being implemented for the last two financial years of data. Data prior to financial year 2024/25 has not been updated to maintain consistency across releases. For this historical data, it is possible that hazard observation records have been categorised as

near miss, due to the lack of ability for the user to categorise the report as hazard observation.

Defence Statistics are continually working with the TLB's and MySafety project managers and IT team to improve health and safety data quality.

3.4.9 Damage

From the 2025/26 financial year report onwards, Defence Statistics has revised its methodology for categorising Damage reports. Previously, Damage reports were included within Near Miss figures due to their relatively low volume, and the purpose of the reporting systems to capture events that present a risk to safety.

Following the integration of a vehicle incident reporting system into MySafety, a significant increase in Damage reports has been identified from the 2024/25 financial year onwards. Consequently, from 2024/25 onwards, Damage reports have been excluded from Near Miss totals. This integration has resulted in the Damage category being increasingly used to record incidents involving minor vehicle or equipment damage (including when personnel were not present - such as a wing mirror scratch in a car park). Such reports are not considered workplace safety incidents and would otherwise inflate the figures with data that are beyond the scope of this publication. Vehicle incidents resulting in injury or potential injury should be captured within the 'Accident' category of MySafety and therefore included within the statistic.

3.5 Methodology

3.5.1 Rates

Rates enable comparisons between groups and over time, taking account of the number of personnel in a group (personnel at risk) at a particular point in time. The number of events (i.e. reported injuries and ill health incidents) is divided by the average number of personnel at risk per annum and multiplied by 1,000 to calculate the rate per 1,000 personnel at risk.

3.5.2 Percentage

Percentages are calculated by taking the number of events (i.e. reported injuries and ill health incidents) is then divided by the number of personnel at risk per annum and multiplied by 100 to calculate the percentage of personnel affected.

3.5.3 Statistical significance

The statistical significance tests used within this report uses the Z test. The Z test is used to test the difference between two proportions was used to identify if there was a significant difference between the rates of two different groups e.g. males and females. The significance test provided the confidence to state that an observed difference between the rates was a real difference. A significance level of 0.05 has been used.

3.5.4 Population data

Reliable denominator data were not available for all populations in these statistics and therefore some groups were excluded from rate calculations. Denominator data were not

available for Other Civilian groups including Contractors, Foreign Forces, directly employed labourers and members of the public including external visitors on MOD property. There are no centrally held data on the numbers of civilians within these groups that have resided / visited MOD sites. Therefore, these populations were excluded from the overall rates/percentages presented. The numerator and denominator for the age of the Cadets sub-group of Cadet Forces were not available, and therefore it was not possible to calculate rates by age group.

The rates and percentages calculated for this Statistical Bulletin are based on headcounts as the denominators (the actual number of people within a group) which is in line with the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) methodology for calculating rates presented within their Annual reporting injury in the workplace for all UK Annual Health and Safety Statistics.

The estimate of personnel at risk required for the denominator value is derived using a thirteen-month average of strengths figures (e.g. the number of personnel in the UK Armed Forces) at the first of every month between April 2025 and April 2026 divided by thirteen for 2025/26).

4 Quality Management

4.1 Quality Assurance

The MOD's quality management process for Official Statistics consists of three elements: (1) Regularly monitoring and assessing quality risk via an annual assessment; (2) Providing a mechanism for reporting and reviewing revisions/corrections to Official Statistics; (3) Ensuring BQRs are publishing alongside reports and are updated regularly.

The latest Quality Assurance assessment of the H&S statistic identified that some improvements were possible with limitations identified due to definitional differences between TLB sources and the reliance on free text to create some of the reporting categories.

4.2 Quality Assessment

New reporting system:

The introduction and development of the MySafety (formerly known as Defence Unified Reporting and Lessons System (DURALS)), which is currently used by the Army, CSOC, RAF, Royal Navy, DNO, DSA, SDG (formerly SDA), MDP, MGS, DE&S, SSG, DBS. This has impacted the quality of the data collection in different ways:

MySafety is an agile system and is constantly being developed to improve reporting. Completeness and accuracy of personal information for military personnel has improved due to the new system linking to the personnel database (JPA).

The legacy Army system was reliant on the Army Safety Centre coordinating the entry of incident reports. The new system which is menu-driven allows users direct access to submit occurrence reports without safety centre intervention. This may affect the accuracy of reported injury severities, with a greater proportion being reported as minor. This may reflect improved reporting of minor events, however previous reviews of the narrative text of these incidents suggested an estimated error rate of around 5-10%, where an incident should have been categorised as serious or specified. Work has been completed to

automate the recording of injury severity with the aim of improving the accuracy. All fractures (with the exception of fractures to toes, fingers or thumbs) are reclassified to Specified. Cases where more than 7 days lost were recorded are reclassified from Minor to Serious. Cases where 7 or fewer days lost were recorded are reclassified from Serious to Minor. This is reliant on self-reported symptoms so although the error rate is likely to have improved, it will still not be completely accurate. These corrections are made within Defence Statistics data processing; Defence Statistics do not hold the authority or permissions to make any corrections within the MySafety reporting system. Any corrections within the reporting system need to be made by the user or occurrence managers within each TLB.

MySafety better distinguishes between injury and ill health by providing the user with more options to specify the type of injury sustained or symptoms of ill health. This improvement has resulted in a more accurate identification of ill health incidents, previously reported as injuries. Increases in the reports of ill health may be due to better reporting of these instances or may be more accurate categorisation of incidents that had previously been categorised as injuries. Some inconsistencies in the categorisation of injury and ill health may persist, as some injury types and symptoms listed in MySafety, which Defence Statistics relies on, can be vague. In such cases, Defence Statistics makes an informed assumption about the most appropriate category for the report.

MySafety has better delineated categories of activity due to users being able to select types of activity from drop down menus, resulting in more accurate identification of the types of activities undertaken (mainly Physical Training (PT), Training and Adventure Training). Therefore, automated coding processes used for data collected in other systems is not used for most incidents entered into MySafety to assign incidents to these categories. Where type of activity was not listed, users are able to enter free text via the "Other" option. To identify the activity reported through "Other", Defence Statistics continues to use an automated code to categorise the incidents as one of the four main activities referred to elsewhere in the report (Adventure Training; Training/Exercise; Sport/Recreation; Normal Duties/Routine Activity).

Within the system, users can report incidents which occurred during "Routine Activity", this aligns with activity type "Normal Duties". Wording within this Statistic has been updated to reflect these changes.

5 Relevance

5.1 User Needs

The MOD Health and Safety statistics have been published in response to user demand. Interest has come from internal MOD policy makers, Government Departments, the media, and the general public.

These statistics also play an important part in ensuring the Department's accountability to the British public.

5.2 Strengths and Weaknesses in Relation to User Needs

A key weakness is that Defence Statistics relies on the level of detail recorded on the health and safety data for each incident. A great deal of the information can be recorded in free text fields, or at the time of the incident when not all details may be known, and is

therefore subject to change. Some incidents may be reported at a later date and some details are updated which can result in revisions to previously published data.

Defence Statistics Health encourage users to provide feedback on the publication itself. Feedback is also welcomed from any other internal and external customers.

6 Accuracy and Reliability

6.1 Overall Accuracy

MOD civilian demographics have only been provided for a limited group of people and therefore numbers and rates should be interpreted with caution. For 2025/26, out of all personnel identified as MOD Civilians, the type of personnel (whether industrial, non-industrial or RFA) was missing for >1% (8), gender and age information was not available for 19% (655).

6.2 Coverage

The data in this report include all UK Armed Forces personnel, MOD Civilian personnel, Other Civilians, and Cadet Forces personnel with reported injuries, ill health, near miss, dangerous occurrence, or death incidents on MOD property or injured in or by MOD vehicles.

The injured person, involved person, or a witness to the incident, will report the incident to the relevant TLB notification system. The severities of incidents are aligned with the HSE definitions.

Due to the wide range of statistics presented, the Statistics Bulletin is presented in five sections for reported health and safety incidents, with supplementary tables in MS Excel provide further breakdowns and details.

6.3 Data Revisions

Data revisions are handled in accordance with the MOD's Official Statistics Revisions and Corrections Policy.

Incident numbers have been updated to account for late reporting and changing methodologies. Figures updated are represented with an 'r'.

The statistics are subject to routine revisions as all notification cells receive updates on incidents already reported or new reports of incidents that happened in the past (late reporting). These figures can be identified by a revision marker ('r'). For this report the previous year's figures have been revised to include any additional reports that have been submitted after the original official statistic data extraction. The revision will also capture any changes to the figures caused by report deletion within the MySafety system.

The revisions will not pick up any changes made to categorisation of incident type or severity made by occurrence managers within the MySafety reporting system. However, it will pick up any additional records submitted after the original statistics data extraction, and any report deletions made by occurrence managers.

Due to ongoing data validation and the existence of late reporting, figures for the latest financial year are provisional ('p') and may also be subject to change in future releases.

7 Timeliness and Punctuality

7.1 Timeliness

Data are provided to Defence Statistics on a routine basis from each health and safety reporting system individually. The official statistic is produced on an annual basis.

7.2 Punctuality

The Official Statistics have all been published on time to meet pre-announced release dates. Future publication dates will also be announced on the Gov.UK website at least one month in advance.

8 Coherence and Comparability

Within the official statistic we used data from eleven systems.

For financial year 2025/26 there is currently data from 10 reporting systems run by different TLBs that the Health and Safety official statistic uses to calculate the numbers and rates. To improve the coherence of the data received from the TLBs, each report against a minimum data set, although there may be definitional differences between them. See below:

- Army Safety Centre Incident Notification System (INS) – 1 April 2021 to 7 August 2025
- Defence Equipment and Support Cell (DINC) – 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2025
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation Incident Notification System (DIO-INS) – 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation Contractors (DIO-CON) – 1 April 2021 to 30 October 2024
- Defence Nuclear Organisation (DNO) – 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2025
- MySafety (formerly known as Defence Unified Reporting and Lessons Management System (DURALS)) – 10 January 2022 to 31 March 2026
- Department Of State (DOS) (formerly known as Head Office and Corporate Service (HOCS)) – 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026
- Cyber & Specialist Operations Command (CSOC) (formerly known as UK Strategic Command (StratCom)) – 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026
- RAF Functional Safety Information Management System (FSIMS) – 1 May 2021 to 19 November 2024
- Naval Service Information Management System (NLIMS) – 1 April 2021 to 9 April 2025

The following are historic reporting systems which no longer appear in the official statistics dataset:

- Accident and Incident Recording System (AIRS) – up to 30 June 2020
- Incident Recording Information System (IRIS) – March 2007 to 29 June 2012
- Central Health and Safety Project (CHASP) – up to March 2007

The goal is for all reporting systems to migrate into the MySafety system in the next financial year, therefore there will be more legacy systems in the next release.

MOD uses the same severity categories as HSE to enable comparisons. The HSE's severity categorisations have been applied to all events in this statistic, even those events which do not meet RIDDOR criteria, such as those that occur off duty or overseas.

Defence Statistics limit changes to methodology to enable comparisons over time, however any methodology changes are clearly shown. Where data processing errors are identified, where appropriate, historic trend information is corrected and provided in the accompanying Excel tables.

In January 2022 the Army and UK Strategic Command launched a new safety reporting system (MySafety, formerly known as the Defence Unified Lessons and Reporting System) which was designed to be more user-friendly and encouraged the reporting of safety related incidents. Increases in the number of Armed Forces incidents since this date may be due to improvements in reporting rather than an increased number of events.

9 Accessibility and Clarity

9.1 Accessibility

These statistics are published the GOV.UK website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-health-and-safety-statistics-index>

24-hour pre-release access to the report was available to a limited distribution list within MOD. The full list can be found in the pre-release access list available on the Gov.UK: [website:https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/defence-statistics-pre-release-access-list](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/defence-statistics-pre-release-access-list).

MS Excel versions of all Health and Safety report tables are also available on the Gov.uk website alongside each published report.

A glossary of key terms is provided in the report to aid understanding.

9.2 Clarity

Users with an interest in the key findings can read a short summary of main messages within the Introduction. The report is then split into distinct sections to help users navigate their way through the publication.

9.3 Additional Supporting Glossary

Human Resources Management System (HRMS) - was a personnel system used by Defence Business Services to capture information on all MOD civilians, to include personal and job information. This was replaced by MyHR in January 2023.

Joint Casualty and Compassionate Cell (JCCC) - provides a focal point for casualty administration and notification and requests for compassionate travel (for those personnel serving overseas) in respect of members of the British armed forces.

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) - is the system used by the Armed Forces to deal with matters of pay, leave and other personnel administrative tasks.

MyHR - is a personnel system used by Defence Business Services to capture information on all MOD civilians, to include personal and job information. This system replaced HRMS in January 2023.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) - is a civilian manned fleet owned by the MOD, which supports Royal Navy ships around the world, supplying warships with fuel, ammunition and supplies. Although all RFA personnel are MOD civilians, in addition to their civilian status, since 2007, a large proportion of RFA personnel have also become Royal Naval Reserve sponsored reserves. In a combat situation, this sponsored reserve status is activated to ensure that personnel are protected by the Geneva Convention. RFA personnel on sponsored reserve contracts are reported in this publication as a subset of the RNR sponsored reserve. These RFA sponsored reserve personnel are also reported in the Quarterly Civilian Personnel Report, which publishes statistics on the whole of the RFA population.

Royal Marines (RM) - Royal Marines are sea-going soldiers who are part of the Naval Service.

Royal Navy (RN) - The sea-going defence forces of the UK but excludes the Royal Marines and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service (RFA). From 1 April 2000 the Royal Navy incorporated Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service (QARNNS).

RIDDOR Reportable Occupational Diseases –

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) puts duties on employers, the self-employed and people in control of work premises to report certain serious workplace accidents, occupational diseases and specified dangerous occurrences.

RIDDOR defined injuries to civilian employees and incidents leading to the hospitalisation or death of members of the public are reportable to Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Equivalent injuries and diseases to armed forces personnel on duty are not reportable under RIDDOR but MOD has undertaken to notify any Work-Related Death, Major Injury, Disease or Dangerous Occurrence, to HSE as if they were RIDDOR reportable. Defined Dangerous Occurrences are reportable.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, HSE made Covid-19 reportable if there was a likelihood it was caught at work. Workers report incidents on Covid-19 which they believe may have been from exposure at work, however reliably identifying the source of exposure for COVID-19 is difficult and self-reports may under- or overestimate the true scale

In the case of a fatality within the defined geographic limits, HSE expects the Commanding Officer/Head of Establishment or other responsible person within the relevant command to notify HSE within the time periods as laid down in RIDDOR.

MOD defines the severity of injuries and illness as follows:

a. Specified injuries and illnesses – aligned with the HSE definition as work-related incidents which include:

- a fracture, other than to fingers, thumbs and toes.
- amputation of an arm, hand, finger, thumb, leg, foot or toe.
- permanent loss of sight or reduction of sight.
- crush injuries leading to internal organ damage.

- serious burns (covering more than 10% of the body, or damaging the eyes, respiratory system or other vital organs).
- scalping (separation of skin from the head) which require hospital treatment.
- unconsciousness caused by head injury or asphyxia.
- any other injury arising from working in an enclosed space, which leads to hypothermia, heat-induced illness or requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours.

b. Serious injuries and illnesses – aligned with the HSE category of ‘over seven-day incapacitation of a worker’ and are those that are not defined as ‘specified’ according to the above criteria, but which could result in a person being unable to perform their normal duties for more than seven days.

c. Minor injuries and illnesses - are those that are not classified as ‘serious’ or ‘specified’.

Top Level Budget (TLB) - Most Defence activity is managed through Top Level Budget (TLB) holders. The Permanent Secretary grants each TLB holder extensive delegated powers over personnel, infrastructure and budget.

10 Trade-offs Between Output Quality Components

Defence Statistics minimise the cost to Government of producing these statistics by using data already collated for internal reporting to the MOD safety boards. Since data are returned by individual TLBs, data between datasets are of varying quality and completeness. This limits the information available.

11 Cost and Respondent Burden

Annual updates of the health and safety statistics take two members of staff approximately 8 weeks to prepare, including data preparation, validation and report writing.

The Health and Safety report uses administrative data sources which are already collected by the MOD. Therefore, the main operational cost to production of the statistics is liaison with the health and safety reporting systems, for quality assurance and data interpretation.

12 Confidentiality and Security

12.1 Confidentiality – Policy

Prior to analysis data sources have been linked using a pseudo-anonymisation process. The individual identifiers were stripped from datasets and replaced by a pseudo-anonymiser, generated, effectively, by an automated sequential numbering system. The key to the system is that it recognises previous occurrences of a given Service number and allocates the same pseudo-anonymiser on each occasion. This also enables the data to be linked with the other data sources, which have also already been pseudo-anonymised. The tables in the report are scrutinised to ensure individual identities are not revealed inadvertently.

The MOD Health and Safety Statistics: Annual Summary & Trends Over Time is an Official Statistic and is produced in line with the UK Code of Practice for Official Statistics and comply with the pre-release access arrangements. The Defence Statistics Pre-Release Access lists are available on the GOV.UK website

12.2 Confidentiality – Data Treatment

In line with the directives of the JSP 200, disclosure control is conducted on all statistical information provided by the MOD to safeguard the confidentiality of individuals. Within these statistics a risk of disclosure has been considered to be high where numbers presented are fewer than three. In some limited cases where the risk of disclosure resulting from presenting a number fewer than 3 is low, these figures may still be presented in the report. Each of these cases is assessed on its own merit and a decision made. In cases where a risk of disclosure exists, one of two appropriate disclosure control methods have been applied:

- a) Figures have been suppressed: In most cases where there may be a risk of disclosure, numbers fewer than three have been suppressed and marked as '~'. Where there is only one cell in a row or column that is fewer than three, secondary suppression has been applied where the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.
- b) Where numbers fewer than three have been presented, each occurrence has been scrutinised, and the risk of disclosure has been assessed as low.

12.3 Security

Defence Statistics Health has data access agreements with all health and safety reporting systems with respect to obtaining the health and safety data extracts. All Defence Statistics Health staff involved in the production of the health and safety statistics have completed the Government wide Responsible for Information- General User training and they understand their responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and the Official Statistics Code of Practice. All MOD, Civil Service and data protection regulations are adhered to. The data is stored, accessed and analysed using the MOD's restricted network and IT systems.