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Our Reference: PF 19-10-2009-160655-003

Date: 8 April 2010

Dear XXXXXXXX

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19 October 2009 which has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to your request. This was as a result of a structural reorganisation which led to the loss of some outstanding work.

You requested the following information:

1. Statistics of the amount of soldiers in the army, navy and RAF that have deserted or went absent without leave from 2005 - 2009.
2. Statistics on the amount of soldiers in the army, navy and RAF who have left due to illness or ill health from 2005 - 2009 - please breakdown the reasons for the illness where possible, eg mental, physical, etc.
3. Statistics on the number of investigations into allegations of brutality by the Special Investigation Branch of the military police.

Tables A and B provide the answers both aspects of point 1, as explained below.

Table A provides the number of incidents of personnel Court Martialled for desertion during the period 2005 - 2009.

Table A: The number of Courts Martial between 2005 and 2009 for desertion

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
RN	0	1	0	0	0
Army	5	7	7	8	10
RAF	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	5	8	7	8	10

Table B provides the number of incidents of personnel recorded as absent without leave (AWOL) for the period 2005 - 2009.

Table B: The number of incidents of AWOL reported between 2005 and 2009

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
RN	196	157	114	123	59
Army	2,719	2,334	2,310	2,140	1,998
RAF	37	10	26	13	6
TOTAL	2,952	2,501	2,450	2,276	2,063

To answer Point 2, a breakdown by cause for Service personnel medically discharged for the period 2005 – 2008 is provided at Annex A. Figures have been compiled using the International Classification of Diseases & Related Health Problems version 10.

To answer Point 3 we have interpreted "investigations into allegations of brutality" as being Offences against the Person. Table C below therefore provides the number of investigations into these offences conducted by the Service Police for the period 2005 - 2009.

Table C: The number of investigations into incidents of Offences against the Person between 2005 and 2009

Year	Investigations into Offences against the Person
2005	2,714
2006	3,137
2007	3,005
2008	2,275
2009	1,815

The statistics in Table C reflect the number of investigations into acts of brutality conducted by the Service Police. This includes all offences against the person, but Table C does not include sexual offences. The database records every crime reported to the Service or civilian police by Service personnel, or allegations against Service personnel worldwide.

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In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The MOD therefore will be simultaneously posting the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context, in our online FOI Disclosure Log at <http://www.foi.mod.uk>.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours Sincerely

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Table 1: Naval Service¹ medical discharges by cause during the period 2005-2008, number²

	All	2005	2006	2007	2008
All	1,435	396	357	350	332
All Cause Coded medical discharges	1,227	359	335	307	226
Infectious and parasitic diseases (A00 - B99)	~	0	~	0	~
Neoplasms (C00 - D48)	16	7	6	~	~
Blood disorders (D50 - D89)	~	0	~	0	0
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00 - E90)	25	~	~	8	~
Mental disorders (F00 - F99)	156	46	42	39	29
Nervous system diseases (G00 - G99)	72	23	24	13	12
Eye and adnexa diseases (H00 - H59)	15	~	~	7	0
Ear and mastoid process diseases (H60 - H95)	16	5	~	~	7
Circulatory system disorders (I00 - I99)	23	~	~	6	8
Respiratory system disorders (J00 - J99)	23	10	6	~	~
Digestive system disorders (K00 - K93)	26	~	8	9	~
Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases (L00 - L99)	31	9	~	12	~
Musculoskeletal disorders (M00 - M99) and Injuries (S00 - T98)	763	223	206	187	147
Genitourinary system diseases (N00 - N99)	7	~	~	~	~
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (O00 - O99)	~	0	0	~	0
Congenital malformations (Q00 - Q99)	11	~	5	~	~
Clinical and laboratory findings (R00 - R99)	35	10	8	11	6
External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01 - Y98)	~	~	0	0	0
Factors influencing health status (Z00 - Z99)	~	0	~	0	~
Other Medical Discharges for which data is not available³	208	37	22	43	106

¹Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

²Small numbers have been suppressed in line with the office for National Statistics guidelines. Suppressed numbers are represented as ~

³Figures include medical discharges for which no Fmed 23s have been received by DASA

Table 2: Army medical discharges by cause during the period 2005-2008, number¹

	All	2,005	2,006	2,007	2,008
All Causes of medical discharge	3,898	1,047	1,009	1,000	842
All Cause Coded medical discharges	3,740	998	1,001	938	803
Infectious and parasitic diseases (A00 - B99)	23	7	~	~	7
Neoplasms (C00 - D48)	28	~	12	~	9
Blood disorders (D50 - D89)	5	~	0	0	~
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00 - E90)	21	~	7	8	~
Mental disorders (F00 - F99)	481	119	111	114	137
Nervous system diseases (G00 - G99)	159	41	37	55	26
Eye and adnexa diseases (H00 - H59)	40	8	12	14	6
Ear and mastoid process diseases (H60 - H95)	91	17	37	24	13
Circulatory system disorders (I00 - I99)	52	12	8	19	13
Respiratory system disorders (J00 - J99)	75	20	25	19	11
Digestive system disorders (K00 - K93)	49	12	11	12	14
Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases (L00 - L99)	69	21	26	10	12
Musculoskeletal disorders (M00 - M99) and Injuries (S00 - T98)	2,388	676	629	596	487
Genitourinary system diseases (N00 - N99)	27	6	12	~	~
Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium (O00 - O99)	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital malformations (Q00 - Q99)	21	14	~	0	~
Clinical and laboratory findings (R00 - R99)	178	37	56	48	37
External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01 - Y98)	0	0	0	0	0
Factors influencing health status (Z00 - Z99)	33	0	7	9	17
Other Medical Discharges for which data is not available²	158	49	8	62	39

¹ Small numbers have been suppressed in line with the office for National Statistics guidelines. Suppressed numbers are represented as ~

² Figures include medical discharges for which no Fmed 23s have been received by DASA

Table 3: RAF medical discharges by cause during the period 2005-2008, number¹

All	All	2005	2006	2007	2008
All	869	207	241	229	192
All Cause Coded medical discharges¹	737	124	222	217	174
Infectious and parasitic diseases (A00 - B99)	~	0	0	~	~
Neoplasms (C00 - D48)	13	0	~	~	6
Blood disorders (D50 - D89)	~	~	0	0	0
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00 - E90)	10	~	~	~	~
Mental disorders (F00 - F99)	206	38	78	49	41
Nervous system diseases (G00 - G99)	55	8	18	20	9
Eye and adnexa diseases (H00 - H59)	11	~	~	5	0
Ear and mastoid process diseases (H60 - H95)	13	~	6	~	~
Circulatory system disorders (I00 - I99)	28	~	9	10	~
Respiratory system disorders (J00 - J99)	12	~	~	~	~
Digestive system disorders (K00 - K93)	13	~	~	~	~
Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases (L00 - L99)	9	~	~	~	~
Musculoskeletal disorders (M00 - M99) and Injuries (S00 - T98)	342	51	87	109	95
Genitourinary system diseases (N00 - N99)	6	0	~	~	~
Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium (O00 - O99)	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital malformations (Q00 - Q99)	~	~	0	0	0
Clinical and laboratory findings (R00 - R99)	10	~	~	~	~
External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01 - Y98)	0	0	0	0	0
Factors influencing health status (Z00 - Z99)	~	0	~	~	~
Other Medical Discharges for which data is not available²	132	83	19	12	18

¹ Small numbers have been suppressed in line with the office for National Statistics guidelines. Suppressed numbers are represented as ~

² Figures include medical discharges for which no Fmed 23s have been received by DASA

The processes for administering a medical discharge differ between the three Services and as a consequence the numbers have been presented by Service rather than annual Tri-Service totals.