

Consultation

DASA is reviewing the UK Armed Forces Suicide and Open Verdict deaths National Statistic to ensure it is coherent and continues to meet user needs. DASA are therefore initiating a consultation to seek user feedback on the suicide and open verdict deaths statistics. This consultation is prompted by the UK Statistics Authority Assessment Report 197: Statistics on Defence Health, which requires DASA to review the content of statistics in consultation with users.

Comments are requested on the proposed changes and additions outlined below. The proposed changes are based on responses from an internal consultation and also information that is frequently requested in PQs, FOIs and adhoc requests. General comments and suggestions about the reports are also welcomed. Please email DASA-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk with your comments. Depending on the volume received we will either post your comments soon after receipt for consideration by other users or respond to them when we publish the outcome of the consultation on 22nd March 2013. The consultation will close on 19th March 2013. All of the responses received will be used to help DASA determine the content of future statistical outputs on suicide and open verdict deaths.

Proposed changes to the UK Armed Forces Suicide and Open Verdict deaths National Statistic:

- a. All future releases will no longer present the analysis from the start of the data series in 1984 to the current reporting year. This is because the period now reported is 28 years and to continue adding a year to the overall rate of suicide each release may obscure more recent trends. It is proposed that reporting cover a rolling 20 year period which provides a balance between having enough data to demonstrate trends (suicide is a rare event in the AF) and the need for providing statistics relevant to today's Armed Forces. All tables and charts in the report will be affected. Therefore all future releases will present the numbers and rates for the latest 20 year period.
- b. The addition of a table presenting the number, rate and Standardise Mortality Ratio of UK regular Armed Forces Suicide and Open Verdict deaths for the latest 10 year period broken down by year and Service.