



# Ministry of Defence

Ref: [REDACTED]

Ministry of Defence  
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United Kingdom +44 (0)20 721 89000  
E-mail: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 9 October 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 11 September in which you requested the following information:

*I would like to request information as to how many investigations are being worked upon by military investigators (Army, RAF and Navy) that fall into the category of historical investigations into sexual abuse. This would be cases where allegations pre date the year 2000 and cases of alleged sexual abuse involving both adults and children. I am not expecting details of the cases but an overview of the number of cases that military investigators consider to be either under current active investigation or that are pending and awaiting further investigation.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed, and I can confirm that information is held which falls within the scope of your request.

Sexual abuse are abhorrent crimes which have no place in the Armed Forces. We do not tolerate offences of this kind and every reported incident of rape, sexual assault or harassment is thoroughly investigated. It is important to note that there is no evidence to suggest that rates of sexual offending in the Armed Forces are higher than in the broader population. However, we recognise the great courage it takes to come forward and report a sexual offence which is precisely why we have extensive support in place for those affected, including helplines, training programmes and awareness campaigns.

In addition, the Army has established a Sexual Offences Prevention Working Group to both reduce incidents of sexual assault and improve support to victims. This is one of a number of internal initiatives that the Army has launched to ensure all of its employees act lawfully and treat each other in a way that is consistent with our values and standards.

The total number of historic investigations that are currently ongoing as at 28 September 2015 is 19. This is broken down to 10 by the Royal Air Force Police and 9 by the Royal Military Police. The Royal Navy Police do not have any ongoing investigations that meet this criteria. These investigations are those in which the Service Police have jurisdiction and are the lead investigating agency and all relate to alleged incidents that occurred prior to 1 January 2000.

This data is limited to information recorded by the MOD, based on cases where the Service Police have jurisdiction and the investigative lead. It does not therefore, include cases which have been dealt with by the civilian police. The information has been collated by the Service Police Crime Bureau's (SPCB) Crime Statistics Analysis Cell (CSAC) on behalf of the Royal Navy Police, the Royal Military Police and the Royal Air Force Police. The SPCB information has been extracted from a database known as "REDCAP".

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 Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat