

Proposed reduced frequency of the “Quarterly UK Armed Forces and UK Entitled Civilians Operational Casualty and Fatality Statistics” Official Statistic

SUMMARY

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently publishes the [UK Armed Forces and UK Entitled Civilians Operational Casualty and Fatality Statistics](#) on a quarterly basis. We are now seeking external users' views on reducing the frequency of this publication.

BACKGROUND

This quarterly report provides statistical information on the number of UK Armed Forces personnel and UK Entitled Civilians, who died, were injured or became ill on Operations KIPION (Middle East), SHADER (Iraq and Syria), GRITROCK (Ebola crisis in West Africa) and TORAL (Afghanistan).

This report has been provided in response to the increasing number of requests for information about UK Service personnel deployed on current operations. The MOD are committed to making information on operational casualties public but have to draw a line between how much information is provided regularly in the public domain and information which compromises operational security of UK Armed Forces personnel or which risks breaching an individual's right to medical confidentiality.

This report has been published to support the MOD's commitment to release information wherever possible.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED CHANGE

Defence Statistics is proposing to reduce this Official Statistic from quarterly to bi-annual as:

- a. The numbers published for Op TORAL are very small with **24** casualties in 2014-15 and **12** so far in 2015-16.
- b. The numbers published for Op SHADER within the report are already bi-annual.
- c. Op KIPION is due to end in April or May so reporting will cease for this operation and it will be added to the annex.

TIMINGS

This consultation will run for **four weeks**, from **20 April to 18 May 2017**. This consultation complies with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultations.

As long as there is no objection during the consultation period, the reduction of the report will proceed as planned and the next bulletin following the report published in April 2017 will be in October 2017.

RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

Considering the reasons for the proposed changes, we now invite the feedback of our external data users and are keen to know what impact the reduction of frequency of this publication will have on you.

Ways to respond

If you have any comments on the proposed changes please send:

By email to: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

By post to:

Defence Statistics (Health)
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West, #6028
Abbey Wood North
Bristol
BS34 8JH

When sending your comments please include contact details (your name and either e mail address, postal address or telephone number) so that we can follow up if clarification is needed.