



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref: Pers Trg-Sec/FOI: 30-12-2013-144100-012

Mr R Martin

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10 February 2014

Dear Mr Martin

Thank you for your request of 30 December 2013 in which you sought the following information:

"I would like to request information on the number of members of the Armed Forces who have gone absent without leave (AWOL) between 2001 and 2013, on a year by year basis. If this is not available, please provide me with your latest figures. I understand that in some instances, AWOL incidents can only be a day because of administration error or illness. Please illustrate the difference in numbers between the total amount of AWOL incidents and the figures for those still AWOL."

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find below two tables which provide you with the information that you were seeking:

Service Personnel AWOL by Year¹

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Army	240	280	400	440	460	470	940	640	670	800	480	430	300
Navy	~	10	20	20	20	~	30	20	20	10	10	10	~
Air Force	20	30	30	50	30	~	10	~	~	~	~	~	10

Service Personnel still AWOL by Year (Cumulative)²

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Army	~	~	~	~	~	~	40	50	60	90	110	110	110
Navy	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Air Force	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~

¹ Please note that the figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. ~ Represents 5 or fewer.

² Please note that the figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. ~ Represents 5 or fewer. The yearly totals are cumulative, and may therefore include personnel still AWOL from previous years.

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, 1st 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

Defence Personnel Secretariat