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14 November 2022

*Dear Mr Gee,*

Thank you for your email of 20 October 2022 in response to my letter of 7 October 2022 (FOI2022/10712) in which you requested some additional information:

A. I'd like to ask a follow-up question. Of the 64 coroner-confirmed suicides in the infantry between 2001 and 2020:

- a) What were their ages in years at the time of their death?
- b) What were their ages in years at the time they enlisted?

B. Can you also please confirm that in calculating that there were 64 infantry suicides in the period, whether infantry trainees were included in the count?

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

Question A. The information is provided in the table below.

**Table 1: UK Regular Army Infantry coroner confirmed suicides by age at entry<sup>1</sup> and age at death, numbers.**

<sup>1</sup> January 2001 to 31 December 2020

Age (years)	Number of entries <sup>1</sup> by age	Number of deaths by age
16	18	0
17	18	3
18	4	6
19	5	3
20	9	5
21	3	6
22	0	4
23	2	5
24	3	3
25	0	1
26	1	3
27	0	2
28	0	1
29	0	2
30	0	2
31	0	2
32	1	0
33	0	1
34	0	3
35	0	2
37	0	2
39	0	2
40	0	3
43	0	1
44	0	1
52	0	1

Source: Defence Statistics Health

#### Notes/Caveats

1. There are known data quality issues with recording of entry date, with entry dates for some personnel having changed over time. Therefore, the figures provided for age at entry are an estimate based on records held. The earliest entry date on record was used in this response.

Figures are for regular personnel and only those reservists who have died whilst on operational deployment as Defence Statistics Health do not routinely receive notification of all reserve deaths.

Figures include both trained and untrained personnel.

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system is the most accurate source for demographic information on UK Armed Forces personnel.

A service person's Arm/Service was identified using JPA. Anyone with an Arm/Service of 'Infantry' has been included in this analysis.

A service person's age at enlisting was calculated using the 'Entry Date' field in JPA. There are known data quality issues with this information for some personnel who have transferred from one service to another service, have served under an alternative assignment type (e.g. Reserve Forces), are re-entrants or have transferred from Other Ranks to Officers and their entry date may correspond to any of these events. The earliest entry date on record was used in this response.

Question B. As was advised in the response to your previous request (FOI2022/10712) and has been explained again above, the figures for suicides/open verdicts include both trained and untrained personnel.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Policy and Secretariat