Your ref:

Our ref: 16-10-2006-165630-005

20 October 2006

Dear

Thank you for your request for information about mental healthcare in the MOD. You asked: “During 2006, how many UK armed forces service personnel have been referred to the Ministry of Defence’s Departments of Community Mental Health with possible mental health problems and subsequently identified as having a psychiatric disorder related to deployment in Afghanistan?”

Since 2003 we have collated figures on the incidence of mental health diagnoses for Service personnel returning from Iraq. However, at a time when a growing number of personnel will have been deployed to other operational theatres before or after deployment to Iraq (including Afghanistan), it is becoming increasingly difficult to attribute a subsequent mental health condition (which in many cases may not present itself until months or even years later) to Service on a specific deployment. We are currently, therefore, reviewing our methods of collating figures on Service personnel who are diagnosed with a mental health condition.

If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact the undersigned in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy 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 at: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk
I hope this is helpful.

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DMSD Secretariat