



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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E-mail: People-Sec-FOIMailbox@mod.gov.uk

Ref: FOI2021/09403

████████████████████
Child Rights International Network
████████████████████

21 September 2021

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your email of 23 August 2021 requesting the following information:

“Please can you tell me how many reports of: a) sexual assault; and b) rape; have been made to the Service Police by armed forces personnel under the age of 18, since 1 Jan 2015? Please can you break the data down by gender of the victim?”

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

	Rape Male	Rape Female	Sexual Assault Male	Sexual Assault Female
2015	1	0	3	1
2016	0	1	0	1
2017	0	1	2	3
2018	0	2	3	3
2019	1	2	4	9
2020	0	1	1	7
2021	0	2	6	8

Under s.16 of FOIA (advice and assistance), you may wish to note that the Ministry of Defence has made it absolutely clear there is no place for unacceptable behaviour in the Armed Forces. We recognise the great courage it takes to come forward and report a sexual offence and Commanding Officers must always refer any allegation of rape and sexual assault, or any other offence which may have a sexual element, to the Service Police. All allegations are thoroughly investigated, and support provided to victims.

Anyone found to fall short of the Services' high standards or to have committed an offence is dealt with appropriately, which may include imprisonment and dismissal from service.

Starting from 2016, Defence has published an annual Official Statistic on Sexual Offending in the Service Justice System, currently covering the years 2015 to 2020:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sexual-offences-in-the-service-justice-system>.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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 normally 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