

Written evidence submitted by the Ministry of Defence

Note from Defence Committee: This information was provided by the MOD on 16 July 2021, in response to our questions about previous data that they had given us (WAF0079).

MOD responses to further questions regarding written evidence submission on Women in the Armed Forces.

- *Does this data all refer to the calendar year 2020?*

These stats relate to calendar year 2020.

- *It's our understanding that there were 146 investigations by the service police into non-historical sexual offences during 2020. The data provided covers 107 investigations in total. Are there 39 investigations missing from these tables and if yes, could you explain?*
- *Is it correct that, of the 39 investigations missing, 9 are for penetrative offences and 30 are for non-penetrative offences?*

It is correct that the official statistics record **146** non-historical offences and in our previous submission we reported **107**. The discrepancy of **39** is as a result of the following:

1. It did not include the **21** investigations for voyeurism, exposure and 'Other' which includes offences contrary to the following Sections of the SOA 03: s4 to 65, s69, 70, 71 and 91. These have not been included in the HCDC report for the following reasons:
 - a. The questions asked by the Committee related to rapes and sexual assault, rather than all SO.
 - b. The additional offences do not usually require FME or specialist support, which are what the HCDC questions centred around.

The remaining 18 did not include **4** Joint investigations as it was not possible without interrogating all the relevant investigations to understand who investigated these offences (at disproportionate cost)

2. For the remaining **14** investigations, it was requested that the Service Police do a full review to understand where this discrepancy has arisen. **12** of these offences were as a result of an oversight when conducting the search: initially it was limited to the more serious Special Investigations Branch Investigations when General Policing Duties Investigations should also have been included. This oversight has now been corrected.

That leaves a further **2** investigations where the official statistics record 2 more investigations than the RMP confirm the records disclose. This would not be possible to clarify without doing a full review of all the investigations recorded. For context, the annual exercise to compile these statistics takes the relevant team about a month each year to complete. Compiling input for the written evidence required tasking officials from across different services to conduct this review at short notice and therefore errors have occurred. It is not considered that any such omissions materially change the position. Having asked all three services to conduct a review, the most accurate figures are below:

Question 11 - What proportion of Service personnel who make a rape or sexual assault allegation are referred for forensic medical examination within 24 hours?

Number of	Number of	Number of referrals to	Number of FME
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investigations into non-historical sexual offences (non-penetrative)	investigations into non-historical sexual offences (rape/ penetrative)	FME within 24 hrs (penetrative offences)	referrals at any time within the forensic window. (penetrative offences)
83	36	9	10

Question 12 - What proportion of Service personnel who make a rape or sexual assault allegation are referred for specialist support (such as crisis counselling) within 24 hours?

Number of investigations into non-historical sexual offences (non-penetrative)	Number of investigations into non-historical sexual offences (rape/ penetrative)	Number of referrals made to specialist support (penetrative)	Number of complainants signposted to specialist support/ provided a victims leaflet (penetrative)
83	36	15	27

Question 13 - During 2020 the Service Police began 161 investigations into sexual offences, of which 26 were for Rape specifically (15 of these 161 investigations were into historical offences). How many forensic medical examinations were conducted as part of the 146 (non-historical) investigations?

Number of investigations into non-historical sexual offences (non-penetrative)	Number of investigations into non-historical sexual offences (rape/ penetrative)	Number of forensic medical examinations conducted for these investigations (penetrative)
83	36	10

16 July 2021