



From: DCDS Pers Secretariat
Zone J, Seventh Floor,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, London, SW1A 2HB

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Our Reference: 03-09-2009-151039-003

Date: 17 February 2010

Dear XXXXX,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19 August 2009 which has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I sincerely apologise for the administrative oversight that has caused the delay in responding to your request.

You requested the following information:

1. the amount of positive results to Compulsory Drug Tests (CDT) in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009 with respect to a) Army b) Navy c) Air Force.
2. Figures/numbers of dishonourable discharges as a result of CDT for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009 with respect to a) b) & c).
3. A breakdown of types of substances being recorded in the event of a positive CDT in respect of a) b) & c).

The number of CDT Results and subsequent discharges from 2005 to 2009; including number tested, number of positive results, and type of drug is displayed in the tables at Annex A.

The Armed Forces drug misuse policy is that the misuse of drugs is inconsistent with Service life and our policy can be described as 'zero tolerance'. Although any Serviceman/woman found¹ to have been taking drugs can expect to be discharged, 'zero tolerance' does not bind the Forces to discharge as its only response to drug misuse. If there are 'exceptional circumstances' and the chain of command can provide a justification for the unusual response of retention then it will be considered.

The number of Service personnel who were discharged after failing drugs tests includes those who may have tested positive following tests carried out by other official bodies (such as civilian police), as well as those carried out by the CDT team. The figures include personnel who would have been administratively discharged as a result of a failed drugs test but were awaiting court-martial for another offence. Conviction at Court Martial will take precedence over an administrative discharge.

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¹ By Civil or Military prosecution, personal admission or failure of a CDT Test.

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In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The MOD therefore will be simultaneously posting the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context, in our online FOI Disclosure Log at <http://www.foi.mod.uk>.

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 Head of Corporate Information, 6th 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

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NAVY CDT RESULTS AND DISCHARGES – For the period 01 Jan 2005-31 Aug 2009

Year	No of Tests Conducted	No of Positive Results	Rate as a % of Tests Conducted	No of Discharges	Drug Types			
					Cocaine	Ecstasy	Cannabis	Others ²
2005	12705	47	0.37	45	26*	8*	11*	2
2006	13552	57	0.42	49	35*	9*	11*	2
2007	10762	39	0.36	38	22*	2*	12*	3
2008	12935	67	0.52	65	50*	1*	13*	3
2009 (to 31 Aug 09)	8153	18	0.2	16	7*	1*	9*	1

* Denotes: Poly use of Drug Types which are calculated as a single positive result

ARMY CDT RESULTS AND DISCHARGES – For the period 01 Jan 2005-31 Aug 2009

Year	No of Tests Conducted	No of Positive Results	Rate as a % of Tests Conducted	No of Discharges	Drug Types ³			
					Cocaine	Ecstasy	Cannabis	Others ⁴
2005	94140	796	0.85	573	364	122	281	29
2006	105008	770	0.73	608	423	95	221	31
2007	75842	678	0.89	610	419	72	160	27
2008	89839	651	0.73	580	427	32	171	21
2009 (to 31 Aug 09)	65946	305	0.46	257	161	4	116	24

RAF CDT RESULTS AND DISCHARGES – For the period 01 Jan 2005-31 Aug 2009

Year	No of Tests Conducted	No of Positive Results	Rate as a % of Tests Conducted	No of Discharges	Drug Types			
					Cocaine	Ecstasy	Cannabis	Others ⁵
2005	12808	21	0.16	27	6	6	8	1
2006	12884	18	0.14	20	9	3	4	2
2007	12119	15	0.12	10	11	0	3	1
2008	12303	27	0.22	21	10	1	13	3
2009 (to 31 Aug 09)	8138	4	0.05	14	3	0	1	0

² Other Drugs – Ketamine, Steroids, Benzodiazepines and Opiates.

³ Where a sample tests positive for more than one drug, the more prevalent drug is counted.

⁴ Other Drugs – Heroin, Ketamine, Steroids, Benzodiazepines and Opiates.

⁵ Other Drugs – Benzodiazepines, Amphetamine