



**Defence Statistics (Health)  
Ministry of Defence  
Oak 0 West (#6028)  
Abbey Wood North  
Bristol BS34 8JH  
United Kingdom**

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

Facsimile: +44 (0)1179 319634

E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

Reference : FOI2015/003273

22 April 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 23 March 2015 requesting the following information:

*"I am asking for a Freedom of Information request regarding Endocrine disorders within the Armed Forces. Could you please answer the following:*

*Firstly, how many serving personnel in the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, both regular and reserve, have an established diagnosis relating to Thyroid and Pituitary disorders? Second, of those, how many are on medication; and thirdly, what are their medical gradings?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held by MOD. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. The electronic patient record has a centralised data warehouse of coded clinical information (read codes); however the coded information does not show how many UK Armed Forces are currently on medication, nor does it show what condition a medication is for. In order to locate, retrieve and extract information regarding the numbers of personnel 'on medication' would involve the manual search of patient medical records for all personnel identified with thyroid or pituitary disorders. We have determined that to produce this information would take in excess of **28** days of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that Defence Statistics hold raw data from which we could consider providing the following information if requested.

- 1) *How many UK Armed Forces personnel in the Army, Naval Service and Royal Air Force, both regular and reserve, have a diagnostic code entered into their electronic medical record relating to Thyroid and Pituitary disorders.*
- 2) *For personnel identified in Question 1, how many have had a prescription recorded in their electronic medical record (this can be split into British Nursing formulary (BNF) chapters to indicate the type of drug), noting that a medication cannot be linked to a condition in the electronic data warehouse, and it is not possible to identify from the prescription code whether the medication is 'currently' being taken. If there are specific medications you would like searched, for example all of BNF Chapter 6.2 Thyroid and Antithyroid Drugs, this will need to be specified in your request.*
- 3) *For personnel identified in Question 1, how many are currently graded Medically Fully Deployable, Medically Limited Deployable and Medically Non Deployable.*

The following codes have been identified for Thyroid and Pituitary disorders;

**Thyroid - Read codes and description**

C0	Disorders of thyroid gland
C00	Simple and unspecified goitre
C000	Simple goitre
C000-1	Retrosternal thyroid goitre
C000-3	Thyroid nodule
C000-4	Colloid goitre
C00z	Goitre NOS
C00z-1	Thyroid enlargement
C01	Nontoxic nodular goitre
C0-1	Struma - goitre
C011	Nontoxic multinodular goitre
C02	Thyrotoxicosis
C020	Toxic diffuse goitre
C020-2	Graves' disease
C020z	Toxic diffuse goitre NOS
C02-1	Hyperthyroidism
C022	Toxic multinodular goitre
C022z	Toxic multinodular goitre NOS
C025	Subclinical hyperthyroidism
C02y0	Thyrotoxicosis of other specified origin with no crisis
C02zz	Thyrotoxicosis NOS
C03	Congenital hypothyroidism
C04	Acquired hypothyroidism
C040	Postsurgical hypothyroidism
C040-1	Post ablative hypothyroidism
C041	Other postablative hypothyroidism
C04-1	Myxoedema
C0410	Irradiation hypothyroidism
C041z	Postablative hypothyroidism NOS
C042	Iodine hypothyroidism
C04-2	Thyroid deficiency
C043	Other iatrogenic hypothyroidism
C04-3	Hypothyroidism
C043z	Iatrogenic hypothyroidism NOS
C044	Postinfectious hypothyroidism
C046	Autoimmune myxoedema

**Thyroid - Read codes and description**

C047	Subclinical hypothyroidism
C04y	Other acquired hypothyroidism
C04z	Hypothyroidism NOS
C04z-2	Thyroid insufficiency
C04z-3	Hypothyroid goitre, acquired
C05	Thyroiditis
C051	Subacute thyroiditis
C051-1	De Quervain's thyroiditis
C052-1	Autoimmune thyroiditis
C052-2	Hashimoto's disease
C05z	Thyroiditis NOS
C06	Other disorders of thyroid
C062	Thyroid cyst
C06z	Thyroid disorder NOS
C0A5	Subclinical iodine-deficiency hypothyroidism
Cyu11	[X]Other specified hypothyroidism

**Pituitary - Read codes and description**

B7H2	Benign neoplasm of pituitary gland and craniopharyngeal duct
C13	Disorders of pituitary gland and its hypothalamic control
C1301	Gigantism
C1302	Acromegaly
C1303	Constitutional tall stature
C1310	Hyperprolactinaemia
C132-1	Hypopituitarism NOS
C1330	Isolated deficiency of growth hormone
C1343	TSH - thyroid-stimulating hormone deficiency
C135	Diabetes insipidus
C135-2	Diabetes insipidus - pituitary
C138	Empty sella syndrome
C139	Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism
C13z	Pituitary disorders NOS
Cyu44	[X]Other disorders of pituitary gland

If you require additional medical conditions to be included in the search you would need to supply the name of the condition in your request.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering mental health and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: [DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-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 Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health)