



# Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2017/13216

Ministry of Defence  
Abbeywood North  
Bristol  
BS34 8JH  
United Kingdom

Telephone: 03067 984423

E-mail: [Def-Strat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:Def-Strat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk)

10 January 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 14 December 2017 requesting the following information:

*“Could you please try and find out the rates of Scurvy in the modern British Military.  
If possible could you break it down to service, Navy, Army, RAF  
If possible can you go back 15 years, and include as much detail as possible.”*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held.

Between 1 January 2007 and 16 December 2017 there were **no** UK Armed Forces personnel with a record of scurvy coded into their electronic medical record.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to note:

It is not possible to determine whether any UK Armed Forces personnel had a record of scurvy within the last 15 years within the cost limit of this Freedom of Information request. The Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) was rolled out in 2007 and is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. Prior to DMICP information was recorded in paper format. Therefore to determine the requested information prior to 2007 would require a clinician to manually review the paper medical records of all personnel who had served between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2006. This would exceed the 3.5 day cost limit of a Freedom of information request.

The electronic patient record contains information that is Read coded. Read codes are a set of clinical codes designed for Primary Care to record the everyday care of a Patient. They are part of a hierarchical structure and form the recognised standard for General Practice. Searches for Read codes can be made to identify personnel who had a particular medical condition.

The following Read codes were used to identify scurvy in DMICP:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
C27-1	Scurvy
D01y0-2	Anaemia due to scurvy
C27-2	Vitamin C deficiency
D01y0	Vitamin C deficiency anaemia

Any data entered as free text only in patients' medical record will not be included in the figures presented as this information is not available in the data warehouse.

UK Armed forces personnel includes trained and untrained Regulars.

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/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health