



Ministry  
of Defence

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18 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 16 February 2015 requesting the following information:

*An annual breakdown of how many serving personnel have been diagnosed with epilepsy in the last five years in*

- A) *The British Army*
- B) *The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below. The figures include only those who currently serve in the Army.

Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2015, 285 currently serving UK Army service personnel (Regular and Reservist) had a code relating to epilepsy entered into their medical records.

Of the 285 currently serving UK Army service personnel who had a code relating to epilepsy entered into their medical records, 22 were members of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

In line with the Defence Statistics rounding policy, numbers fewer than 5 would be suppressed in order to protect patient confidentiality, therefore an overall five year total has been provided for service personnel in The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Table 1 presents the annual breakdown over the last five years of UK Army service personnel who have a code relating to epilepsy entered into their medical records. Each person has been counted only once, in the first year that the code was entered in their record over the five year period.

Please note the first occurrence of a code for epilepsy may not relate to an 'initial diagnosis' of the condition. The condition may have been diagnosed earlier than the five year period, or before the person joined Service. It is not possible to identify from centrally held coded information whether the occurrence of a code relates to a new diagnosis. Numbers below relate to the first time a

clinician recorded the condition in the five years specified. Therefore, Table 1 cannot be interpreted as having a downward trend in cases of epilepsy.

**Table 1: Currently serving UK Army service personnel, as at 1 April 2015, who have an epilepsy read code entered in their medical records over the last five financial years, numbers.**

Financial Year	Personnel
2010/11	105
2011/12	62
2012/13	53
2013/14	35
2014/15	21
2015/15	9

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). 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat