



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI2015/00772

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

request-249060-25817167

16/02/2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 January 2015 requesting the following information:

“The MoD gave a thorough answer on this topic to Mrs Madeleine Moon when she asked a written question in parliament on November 20th 2014 [PQ 215391]

I am requesting that this information be provided for the whole year of 2014: How many UK personnel were prescribed the antimalarial drug mefloquine (Lariam), and how many were thereafter assessed for a mental health condition - whether in a mental health clinic or as an inpatient.”

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.

Between 01 January 2014 and 31 December 2014 **1,892** UK Regular Armed Forces personnel were prescribed Lariam (Mefloquine Hydrochloride).

Between 01 January 2014 and 31 December 2014 **263** UK Regular Armed Forces personnel had an initial assessment for a mental health disorder at a MOD Department for Community Mental Health (DCMH) or admission to the MOD in-patient provider and were prescribed Lariam prior to their initial assessment.

An assessment for a mental health disorder may occur some time after an individual was prescribed Lariam. As per the PQ response MOD searched for records of Lariam prescriptions since 2007 and identified UK Regular Armed Forces personnel who were subsequently assessed for a mental health disorder in 2014. It is not possible from centrally held data to identify whether a mental health episode is associated with being prescribed Lariam.

Personnel have been counted once regardless of the number of prescriptions of Lariam they received in 2014. Data on prescriptions for Mefloquine Hydrochloride (Lariam) used in this response were derived from the integrated primary health record (iHR) within the Defence Medical Information Capability Program (DMICP) data warehouse. **Please note, this is a live system, data was extracted as at 10th February 2015 and thus patient figures may change as a result.**

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note

The numbers provided in the response to PQ 215391 were correct at the time of publishing. We have since improved the methodology used. For completeness the updated information for the same years covered in PQ 215391 are provided below.

Table 1 presents the number of UK Regular Armed Forces personnel who were prescribed Lariam broken down by year. As an individual may have been prescribed Lariam in a number of years, the sum of each year may not equal the total number of UK Armed Forces personnel prescribed over the whole period.

Table 1: UK Regular¹ Armed Forces personnel prescribed Lariam² between 01 April 2007 – 30 December 2014, by year. Number.

Year	Prescribed with Lariam
2007	1,173
2008	1,529
2009	2,724
2010	3,103
2011	2,780
2012	2,082
2013	3,188
2014	1,892
Total	16,473

Source: DMICP, JPA

1. As recorded on JPA^a as at the time of prescription

2. As recorded in DMICP^b, extracted 10 February 2015.

3. From 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2014

4. Please note, an individual may have been prescribed Lariam in more than one year and therefore the sum of each year may not equal the total number of individuals prescribed over the whole period.

Table 2 presents the number of UK Regular Armed Forces personnel who have been prescribed Mefloquine Hydrochloride (Lariam) and who were subsequently seen for an initial assessment at a MOD Department for Community Mental Health (DCMH) or admission to a MOD in-patient provider, for a mental health disorder. The data is presented by year of mental health assessment and an individual is counted once per year. As such, the sum of the years may not sum the total amount of personnel assessed with a mental disorder. It should be noted that an individual may have more than one episode of care at a DCMH or have an episode of care at a DCMH as well as be admitted to an in-patient facility.

Table 2: UK Regular¹ Armed Forces personnel prescribed Lariam² who have had a subsequent episode of care for a mental disorder at a MOD DCMH or an In-patient provider, 01 April 2007 – 31 December 2014, by year. Number.

Year	Number with MH Disorder
2007	0
2008	23
2009	50
2010	94
2011	134
2012	189
2013	241
2014	263
Total	994

Source: DMICP, JPA and Defence Statistics Mental Health database.

1. As recorded on JPA as at the time of prescription

2. As recorded in DMICP, extracted on 10 February 2015.

3. Please note, an individual may have had more than one episode of care in more than one year and therefore the sum of each year may not equal the total number of individuals prescribed over the whole period.

^a Joint Personnel Administration system

^b Defence Medical Information Capability Programme

UK Regular Armed Forces personnel include trained and untrained personnel. Regular status was determined using JPA as at the time personnel were prescribed Lariam or had an initial assessment.

DMICP data

Data are compiled by Defence Statistics (Health) from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) data warehouse. The DMICP programme commenced during 2007 and comprises an integrated primary Health Record (iHR) for clinical use and a pseudo-anonymised central data warehouse. Prior to this data warehouse, medical records were kept locally, at each individual medical centre. By 2010, DMICP was in place for the UK and the majority of Germany. Rollout to other overseas locations commenced in November 2011 and is ongoing.

Medical data is stored in the DMICP data warehouse using read codes. One ICD10 code maps to one or more read code. The read codes relating to the ICD10 codes as provided by you in your email of 19 January 2015, that were used to search the DMICP data warehouse for military personnel prescribed Lariam (Mefloquine Hydrochloride) were those listed under drug name Mefloquine Hydrochloride and Lariam (as Lariam is the only version of Mefloquine Hydrochloride available).

Please note if Lariam or Mefloquine prescriptions are recorded as free text only in the patient medical record they will not be included in the above search. DMICP is also a live record system and data presented may vary from figures previously released.

The life threatening risks of malaria are extremely serious. The Government therefore has a duty to provide members of our Armed Forces with appropriately tested and effective methods of chemoprophylaxis. The exact choice of drug offered to personnel depends on a number of factors, including the region the individual is deploying to, their health and any past history of side effects.

Mental health data

Mental health problems are present in both civilian and military populations and result from multi-factorial issues. The Headquarters Surgeon General (HQ SG) and Joint Medical Command (JMC) are striving to minimise the stigma associated with mental illness and foster the appropriate understanding, recognition and presentation for management of these issues in UK Armed Forces personnel. Stigma concerning mental health issues is, however, deeply embedded in both military and civilian populations and it will take time to produce attitudinal cultural change.

Some mental health problems will be resolved through peer support and individual resources; patients presenting to the UK Armed Forces' mental health services will have undergone a process that begins with the individual's identification of a problem and initial presentation to primary care or other agencies such as the padres or Service social workers. A proportion of mental health issues will have been resolved at these levels without the need for further referral. The diagnostic breakdown in this response is based upon initial assessments at DCMH, which may be subject to later amendment.

UK Armed Forces personnel have access to specialist mental health services, by referrals made by their GP, provided through MOD DCMH or MOD In-patient providers. DCMH are specialised psychiatric services based on community mental health teams closely located with primary care services at MOD sites in the UK and abroad. All UK based and aero-medically evacuated Service personnel based overseas requiring in-patient admission are treated by one of eight NHS trusts in the UK which are part of a consortium headed by the South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation trust (SSSFT). UK based Service personnel from British Forces Germany (BFG) were treated at Guys and St Thomas Hospital in the UK up until April 2013 and from this date, at Gilead IV hospital, Bielefeld, under a contract with Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Family Association (SSAFA) through the Limited Liability Partnership.

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

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, 1st 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health)