



# Ministry of Defence

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Ref. FOI FOI-15-04-2013-120903-009

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

14 May 2013

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXX,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 22 March 2013, which has been considered a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act). Your request has been passed to this department and I have been asked to respond.

You have requested:

"For the last calendar year 2012 please state how many positive drugs tests were recorded following tests carried out on members of the armed forces?

If possible please provide a breakdown of those positive tests by type or class of drug?

For the 2012 figure of positive drug tests please provide a breakdown by army corps (as per the definition provided in Parliamentary Written Answer 190801)."

The information you have requested is enclosed herewith, and I would like to advise you that the misuse of drugs in the Armed Forces is inconsistent with Service life and our policy can be described as 'zero tolerance'. Although any Serviceman/woman found 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.

Please find in the table below the information requested for questions one and two.

TABLE 1 - Compulsory Drug Tests conducted in Armed Forces Jan – Dec 2012

<b>Jan – Dec 2012</b>	
Total Number of Tests conducted in Armed Forces	140563
Total number of Positive analysis	575
<b>Drug Class</b>	
Class A	377
Class B	135
Class C	63

Please be advised that this is the number of tests carried out, not the number of personnel tested. It is not uncommon for an individual to return positive urine analysis for more than one drug, and some individuals return positive analysis on numerous tests.

For your third question, Table 2 refers to Army regiments with the number of positive tests against each unit. Please note that the data in Table 2 does not relate to the number of personnel, only the

number of positive results. The size of each Corps and Regiment will vary and will be dependant on the number of specialisations contained within it.

TABLE 2 - Army corps and regiments tested Jan – Dec 2012

Unit	Positive Tests
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	10
Corps of Royal Engineers	28
Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	23
Foot Guards	29
Household Cavalry	nil
Mercian Regiment	36
Parachute Regiment	~
Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	13
Royal Anglian Regiment	19
Royal Armoured Corps	37
Royal Army Medical Corps	~
Royal Corps of Signals	16
Royal Logistic Corps	50
Royal Regiment of Artillery	35
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	~
Royal Regiment of Scotland	62
The Rifles	13
The Royal Welsh	23
Yorkshire Regiment	10

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data "~" denotes a number less than or equal to 5.

Although you have not expressed a requirement for the data broken down by each Service, Tables 3 to 5 contain information on the number of Compulsory Drug Tests carried out by each branch of the Armed Forces as well as the resulting positive responses within each class of drug.

TABLE 3 - The number of CDT Tests conducted by the Royal Navy in 2012

<b>Royal Navy</b>	
Total Number of Tests conducted	13,743
Total number of Positive analysis	34
<b>Drug Class</b>	
Class A	23
Class B	8
Class C	~

TABLE 4 - The number of CDT Tests conducted by the Army in 2012

<b>Army</b>	
Total Number of Tests conducted	11,2520
Total number of Positive analysis	520
<b>Drug Class</b>	
Class A	342
Class B	124
Class C	56

TABLE 5 - The number of CDT Tests conducted by the RAF in 2012

<b>Royal Air Force</b>	
Total Number of Tests conducted	14,301
Total number of Positive analysis	20
<b>Drug Class</b>	
Class A	12
Class B	~
Class C	~

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Personnel Secretariat

If you are not satisfied with this response or wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact my office 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 **Deputy Chief Information Officer**, 2<sup>nd</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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.