



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: FOI [REDACTED] 09-08-2013-102256-005 correspondence dated: 09 August 2013

Date: 10 September 2013

Dear [REDACTED],

- Your correspondence dated 9th August 2013 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

"What percentage of men, and women, in all three branches of the Armed Forces, smoke? If data is available on an annualised basis that would be preferred."

- Table 1** presents the percentages of UK Armed Forces personnel defined as a 'current smoker', by Service and gender.

Table 1. UK Armed Forces personnel¹ defined as a 'current smoker' by Service and Gender, 2010-2013, percentage

Year ²	Naval Service ³			Army			RAF		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
2010	16	16	18	28	29	22	17	17	18
2011	20	20	20	31	32	24	17	17	18
2012	22	22	21	33	34	25	18	18	18
2013	22	22	20	33	34	24	18	18	18

Source: DMICP (The electronic patient record)

1 Full Time Armed Forces Trained and Serving against requirement.

2 A snapshot of information recorded on Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) as at 1st June each year

3 Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

- Table 1** shows that:
 - The percentage of smokers in the Naval Service personnel and the Army has increased between 2010 and 2012.
 - The percentage of smokers in the RAF has remained constant in the last four years.
 - The RAF have had the lowest percentage of male and female smokers since 2011.
 - The Army have had the highest percentage of male and female smokers in the last four years.
- Service personnel who smoke are advised by healthcare professionals to stop smoking whenever the opportunity arises. Smokers who want to stop should in the first instance be referred to the local military or NHS stop smoking service. Patients who are not ready to stop smoking are offered advice and encouraged to seek support in the future.
- The military populations presented in this FOI are the full time serving UK Armed forces personnel as at:
 - 1st June 2010 (n = 178,470),
 - 1st June 2011 (n = 176,280),
 - 1st June 2012 (n = 168,920),

- 1st June 2013 (n = 159,560).

Background notes:

6. The smoking status information provided in this FOI presents a snapshot of information recorded on Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) for UK Armed Forces personnel trained and serving against requirement.
7. DMICP is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. The data presented in this FOI has been extracted from the DMICP management information system and matched to JPA (personnel) data. Smoking status data has been identified from the 'Smoking Status Dimension' recorded on DMICP. Snapshots of information as at 1 June 2010, 1 June 2011, 1 June 2012 and 1 June 2013 were extracted from DMICP. The last recorded piece of smoking status information is used per person so that we can identify the latest known smoking status. Personnel with a smoking status defined as 'current smoker' were matched to the JPA (personnel) data. Each person has only been counted once.
8. Please note that data taken from the DMICP data warehouse has not been validated against individual patient records.
9. Data have been rounded to 10 in accordance with Defence Statistics (Manpower) rounding policy.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Health) - Head (B1)

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