



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

Reference: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 June 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 18 June 2014 in which you requesting the following information:

1. *"For the last calendar year Jan-Dec 2013 please state how many positive drugs tests were recorded following tests carried out on members of the armed forces.*
2. *Please break down these positive tests by class of drug, eg: Class A - 63, Class B - 468, etc*
3. *For the 2013 figure of positive drug tests please provide a breakdown by army corps (as per the definition provided in Parliamentary Written Answer 190801)"*

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that the MOD holds information within the scope of your request.

The information is contained in Tables A to C at the Annex to this letter. Please note that as Part 3 of your request relates to Army Corps, the data at Table C is specific to Army personnel. The other two tables contain tri-Service data.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, the figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10, where "-" denotes zero, "~" denotes a number less than or equal to five. When rounding up to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

The misuse of drugs in the Armed Forces is inconsistent with Service life and our policy can be described as 'zero tolerance'. Any Serviceman/woman found to have been taking drugs can expect to be discharged, although '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.

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 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 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>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Personnel Secretariat

**TABLE A - COMPULSORY DRUG TESTS (CDT) CONDUCTED IN ARMED FORCES IN 2013**

Jan – Dec 2013	
Total Number of Tests conducted in Armed Forces	142200
Total Number of Positive analysis*	570

\* Some individuals returned more than 1 positive result

**TABLE B - CLASS OF DRUG TESTED FOR BY CDT**

Drug Class**	
Class A	410
Class B	140
Class C	130

\*\* Drug classes vary dependant on method of use e.g amphetamines prepared for injection are Class A whereas ingestion is Class B. It is not possible to identify what method was used when returning a positive CDT. In these cases the lower case is reported e.g Class B.

**TABLE C - ARMY POSITIVE DRUG TESTS BROKEN DOWN BY CORPS**

Unit	Positive
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers***	10
Royal Engineers	30
Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	40
Foot Guards	30
Household Cavalry	10
Mercian Regiment	20
Parachute Regiment	10
Princess of Wales Regiment	20
Royal Anglian Regiment	25
Royal Armoured Corps	20
Royal Army Medical Corps***	~
Royal Corps of Signals***	20
Royal Logistic Corps***	40
Royal Regiment of Artillery	70
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	30
Royal Regiment of Scotland	40
The Rifles	20
The Royal Welsh	30
Yorkshire Regiment	20

\*\*\* It is commonplace for Corps to be embedded into ships, units and establishments. In these cases individuals returning positive analysis are recorded against the host unit e.g Parachute Regiment.