



Ministry
of Defence

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E-mail [REDACTED]

Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

30 September 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 2 September in which you requested the following information:

1. For 2013, 2014 and 2015 (up to September 2) can you please state how many servicemen and women based in Scotland have been tested for the use of illicit drugs per year?
2. For each instance relating to question 1 above can you please state whether the test yielded a positive or negative result in terms of illicit drugs in the system?
3. For each instance relating to question 1 above can you please state where that test took place?
4. For each instance relating to question 1 above can you please state which of the armed forces the serviceman or woman involved was with at that time?
5. For each instance relating to question 1 above can you please state where that serviceman or woman was based and name the regiment or section they were part of?
6. For each instance relating to question 1 above can you please state if the serviceman or woman was dismissed as a result of the drugs test outcome?

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, and I can confirm that information is held which falls within the scope of your request.

The Ministry of Defence has a policy of Compulsory Drug Testing, which seeks to reinforce the message that drug use is unacceptable in Service personnel. The Armed Forces do not tolerate any form of inappropriate behaviour including substance misuse. Where an individual is found, through compulsory drug testing or other investigation, to have fallen short of the Services' high standards, they will be dealt with through the military discipline or administrative process. The information is presented in the tables below broken down by Service.

ROYAL NAVY

The figures for the Royal Navy in the table below also include personnel serving in the Royal Marines. In regard to Q3, tests were conducted at Faslane, Arbroath and Rosyth.

Year	No of Tests	Positive Results	Dismissals
2013	540	~	~
2014	1,630	~	~
2015	690	~	~

*In accordance with Defence Statistics rounding policy all numbers less than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'.

In regard to Q5, some information held by the Department falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (Personal Information) of the FOIA and has been withheld; Section 40(2) has been applied. We are withholding the section or regiment and base of each individual as that would likely compromise their identity in view of the low numbers of positive tests. Its release is governed by the Data Protection Act in order to ensure individual identities are not revealed inadvertently.

ARMY

For the Army, in 2013, 7,180 tests were conducted of which there were 50 positive results. In 2014, 6,260 tests were conducted of which there were 40 positive results, and in 2015 (at as 31 July) 3,230 tests were conducted of which there were 20 positive results. In regard to Q6, data is not held in terms of discharges by location of Regiment.

Unit	Location	2013		2014		2015	
		Tests	No of positive results	Tests	No of positive results	Tests	No of positive results
35 Section Special Investigation Branch	The Castle, Edinburgh	-	-	-	-	10	-
2 Scots	Glencorse Barracks, Edinburgh	1,490	10	2,080	20	450	10
3 Rifles	Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh	1,250	10	1,240	10	350	-
3 Scots	Fort George, Inverness	1,480	10	750	10	300	-
5 Scots	Redford Barracks, Edinburgh	860	10	10	-	500	-
6 Scots (V)	Claremont Street, Edinburgh	N/A	N/A	20	-	30	-
7 Scots (V)	Oliver Barracks, Dundee	20	-	30	-	20	-
105 Regiment Royal Artillery (V)	Colington Road, Edinburgh	10	-	30	-	-	-
39 Regiment Royal Engineers	RAF Kinloss	1,300	-	1,760	-	740	-
71 Engineer Regiment (V)	Leuchars, Fife	20	-	20	-	40	-
32 Signal Regiment	Whitemoss, East Kilbride	20	-	50	-	-	-
38 Signal Regiment (V)	Mid Craigie Road, Dundee	230	-	30	-	20	-
	Lanark		-		-		-

4 Parachute Regiment (V)	Road, Edinburgh	20		20		60	
154 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (V)	Cambuslang, Glasgow	10	-	-	-	-	-
144 Parachute Medical Squadron (V)	Govan, Glasgow	340	-	10	-	100	-
205 Field Hospital (V)	Granton Square, Edinburgh	10	-	-	-	10	-
225 Medical Regiment (V)	Baltimore Road, Glenrothes	10	-	-	-	10	-
159 Supply Regiment (V)	Beveridge Square, Livingstone	10	-	90	-	10	-
243 (Provost) Company (V)	McDonald Road, Edinburgh	90	-	50	-	-	-
5 (Military Intelligence) Battalion (V)	Central Avenue, Grangemouth	N/A	N/A	20	-	10	-
102 Battalion Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers (V)	University Place, Glasgow	20	-	40	-	50	-
Royal Scots Dragoon Guards	Leuchers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	540	-

*Notes/Caveats: Figures are rounded to 10 to protect confidentiality; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

"-" denotes figures of less than 10, (V) indicates Reserve units.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

In regard to Q1, the RAF does not hold the detail on the total number of tests conducted, only detail on the number of positive tests. In regard to Q3, the tests were conducted at RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Leuchars. In regard to Q5, some information held by the Department falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (Personal Information) of the FOIA and has been withheld; Section 40(2) has been applied. We are withholding the section or regiment and base of each individual as that would likely compromise their identity in view of the low numbers of positive tests. Its release is governed by the Data Protection Act in order to ensure individual identities are not revealed inadvertently.

Year	Positive Results	Dismissals
2013	~	~
2014	~	~
2015	-	-

*In accordance with Defence Statistics rounding policy all numbers less than five have been suppressed and presented as '~' and '-' denotes zero.

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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat