



# Ministry of Defence

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Our Reference: FOI2016/04599

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

23 May 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 22 April in which you requested the following information:

1. For the last calendar year 2015 please state how many positive drugs tests were recorded following tests carried out on members of the armed forces and provide a breakdown of those positive tests by type or class of drug? How many individual people did these positive tests relate to.
2. For the last calendar year 2015 please state how many positive drugs tests were recorded following tests carried out on members of (i) the army, (ii) the navy and (iii) the RAF and provide a breakdown of those positive tests by type or class of drug and the number of individual people that they relate to.
3. For the 2015 figure of positive drug tests please provide a breakdown by army corps (as per the definition provided in Parliamentary Written Answer 190801). Please also provide this based on individual people rather than number of positive tests.
4. For 2015 please state how many members of the armed services tested positive for anabolic steroids, how many of these were dismissed and which military corp had the highest number of these positives (please state the number as well as the corp).

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000. Following a search of our records, I can confirm that the MOD does hold some information within the scope of your request.

As you may be aware, drug misuse is incompatible with life in the Armed Forces and will not be tolerated, it is considered incompatible with military service and operational effectiveness. Personnel caught taking drugs can expect to be discharged. The MOD has

a policy of Compulsory Drug Testing (CDT), which seeks to reinforce the message that drug use by Service personnel is unacceptable.

In response to your first question 710 individuals tested positive for drugs in 2015. Information broken down by single Service, class of drug, and by Army Corp is provided below:

Royal Navy

<b>Number of people who tested positive in 2015</b>	<b>Type of drug</b>	<b>Number of people who tested positive for anabolic steroids* for 2015</b>	<b>How many of those who tested positive for anabolic steroids were dismissed</b>
40	30 Class A, 10 Class B, 10 Class C	10	~

Army

<b>Number of people who tested positive in 2015</b>	<b>Type of drug</b>	<b>Number of people who tested positive for anabolic steroids* for 2015</b>	<b>How many of those who tested positive for anabolic steroids were dismissed</b>
640	460 Class A, 150 Class B, 30 Class C	20	~

Royal Air Force

<b>Number of people who tested positive in 2015</b>	<b>Type of drug</b>	<b>Number of people who tested positive for anabolic steroids* for 2015</b>	<b>How many of those who tested positive for anabolic steroids were dismissed</b>
30	20 Class A, 10 Class B, ~ Class C	~	~

\* - Anabolic steroids are a class C drug and are a component of the column "Type of drug".

You also requested statistic on the number of positive tests broken down by Army Corp:

<b>Army Unit</b>	<b>Positive Tests</b>
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	10
Corps of Royal Engineers	40
Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	30
Foot Guards	20
Household Cavalry	~
Mercian Regiment	30
Parachute Regiment	10
Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	10
Royal Anglian Regiment	10
Royal Armoured Corps	30
Royal Army Medical Corps	~
Royal Corps of Signals	20
Royal Logistic Corps	80
Royal Regiment of Artillery	80
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	~
Royal Regiment of Scotland	40
The Rifles	40
The Royal Welsh	20
Yorkshire Regiment	20

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, “~” 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.

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In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The MOD therefore will be simultaneously posting the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context, in our online FOI Disclosure Log at <http://www.foi.mod.uk>.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you.

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, 2nd Floor, Zone N, 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