



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2015/00234

Reply to: [REDACTED]

4 February 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 6 January 2015 in which you have clarified your earlier FOI Request (FOI2014/07568) and expanded it to request the following information:

- "1. a) Since 11/05/2010, has the MoD grown or produced any drugs which are controlled by the UK Misuse of Drugs Act (1971)?
(b) If answer to Question 1.(a) is 'yes': Please list the names of these drugs.
(c) If answer to Question 1.(a) is 'yes': Is the MoD aware of any incidents (or suspected incidents) where drugs which it has grown or produced have been lost, stolen or gone missing?
(d). If answer to Question 1.(c) is 'yes': Please state (i) the number of incidents, (ii) a list of the names of the drugs that were lost/stolen/went missing.
2. a) On how many occasions since 11/05/2010 has the MoD seized drugs (controlled under the UK Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) from individual members of the Armed Forces, Civil Service or other internal staff?
(b) If answer to Question 2.(a) is 1 or more: Please list the names of the drugs seized.
(c) If answer to Question 2.(a) is 1 or more: Is the MoD aware of any incidents (or suspected incidents) where drugs have been seized but have then subsequently been lost, stolen or gone missing?
(d). If answer to Question 2.(c) is 'yes': Please state (i) the number of incidents, (ii) a list of the names of the drugs that were lost/stolen/went missing.
3. a) On how many occasions since 11/05/2010 has the MoD seized drugs (controlled under the UK Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) from drug smugglers or any other criminal individuals or groups? This should discount any internal affairs, such as those specified in Question 2.
(b) If answer to Question 3.(a) is 1 or more: Please list the names of the drugs seized.
(c) If answer to Question 3.(a) is 1 or more: Is the MoD aware of any incidents (or suspected incidents) where drugs have been seized but have then subsequently been lost, stolen or gone missing?
(d). If answer to Question 2.(c) is 'yes': Please state (i) the number of incidents, (ii) a list of the names of the drugs that were lost/stolen/went missing.

NB: In all questions, "drugs" should be defined as any substances that are controlled by the UK Misuse of Drugs Act (1971)."

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 answer to Part 1 of this FOI Request is that this Department has not grown or produced any drugs which are controlled by the UK Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) during the timescale you have stipulated.

Regarding Part 2 of this FOI Request, I can advise that since 11 May 2010 there have been fewer than 10 instances of the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) confiscating drugs controlled under the UK Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. These were cannabis, anabolic steroids, cocaine, ketamine and amphetamine. The table at Annex A to this letter contains relevant data relating to instances when the Service Police have confiscated drugs controlled under the UK Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 from members of the Armed Forces.

To answer Part 3 of your FOI Request, I can advise that the Royal Navy has recorded that, since 11 May 2010, maritime activities resulted in 20 occasions when cocaine, heroin, and/or cannabis was confiscated.

There are no recorded instance(s) of these drugs becoming lost, stolen or otherwise going missing.

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 illegally 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, 2nd 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Personnel Secretariat

Number of occasions since 11 May 2010 the Service Police have confiscated drugs¹ from members of the Armed Forces.

Year / Period	2010 (from 11 May)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 (to 15 January)
Total drug seizures	10	10	20	10	10	-
Total multiple drug types collected in one seizure operation	-	-	~	~	-	-
Total Anabolic Steroids seized	~	~	~	~	~	-
Total Cannabis seized	~	~	-	~	~	-
Total Amphetamine seized	-	-	~	~	~	-
Total Cocaine seized	~	~	~	~	~	-
Total Heroin seized	~	-	-	-	-	-
Total Morphine seized	-	~	-	-	-	-
Total Flucloxacilin seized	-	-	-	-	~	-
Total Diazepam seized	-	-	-	-	~	-
Total Zopiclone seized	-	-	-	-	~	-
Total Amyl Nitrate seized	-	-	-	-	~	-
Total Mephedrone seized	~	-	~	-	-	-
Total barbiturates/ Ketamine seized	~	-	-	-	-	-
Total MDMA (Ecstasy) seized	-	-	~	-	-	-
Total MCAT seized	-	-	~	-	-	-

¹: (As controlled under the UK Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).

²: 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.