



Ministry
of Defence

Headquarters Surgeon General Secretariat
Coltman House,
Defence Medical Services Whittington,
Lichfield,
Staffordshire
WS14 9PY

Ref: FOI2016/01247

E-mail: SGSecFin-SecGpMailbox@mod.uk

request- @whatdotheyknow.com

22 February 2016

Dear

Thank you for your email of 27 January 2016 requesting the following information:

“Please can you provide me with the Mod's Policy on individuals who are diagnosed with Hepatitis C whilst they are serving. Please could you provide me with the number of individuals who have been medically discharged if diagnosed with Hepatitis C?”

Your enquiry has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) can confirm that it holds information within the scope of your enquiry.

The policy for management of individuals who are diagnosed with Hepatitis whilst serving is found in Joint Service Publication 950 leaflet 6-7-5. This states that:

“Service Personnel [SP] who are diagnosed with hepatitis C should be graded MND [Medically Not Deployable] for treatment by a uniformed Hepatologist where possible. Those who achieve a sustained virological response (undetectable hepatitis C RNA [Ribonucleic Acid] at 6 months post-treatment) can be upgraded MFD [Medically Fully Deployable] noting any need for further follow-up.

SP who do not achieve a sustained virological response are to be graded by a uniformed OM [Occupational Medicine] Consultant led medical board due to the transmission risk in an Operational theatre and potential on-going medical requirements. SP are to be graded no higher than MND E3 Perm.”

Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2015:

- No UK Regular Naval Service personnel were medically discharged with a principal or contributory cause of hepatitis C.
- Fewer than five UK Regular Army personnel were medically discharged with a principal or contributory cause of hepatitis C.

- No UK Regular RAF personnel were medically discharged with a principal or contributory cause of hepatitis C.

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 the Headquarters of the Surgeon General 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 FOIA. 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,

Headquarters of the Surgeon General