



# Ministry of Defence

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Our Reference: FOI2015/03571

[REDACTED]

1 May 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 1 April 2015 in which you requested the following information:

Under the FOI Act, I would like to know how many members of the armed forces have tested positive for steroid abuse over the last three years.

I would also like to know their units and the penalty they faced.

I would also like to know the MoD's policy on steroid abuse and what education is provided to troops on this subject.

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

From 1st January 2012 to 31 December 2014 260 members of the Armed Forces tested positive for steroids as classified as Class C drugs in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Of those only 10 were retained in service.

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.

The Unit details for Part 2 of your FOI request have been redacted in accordance with Section 40 of the FOI Act regarding personnel data. The provision of single units could lead to the identification of the individuals concerned.

The MOD policy on steroid abuse is available in Joint Service Publication (JSP) 835, please find attached a copy. Please be advised that this JSP is under review.

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, 1<sup>st</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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat FOI