Ministry of Defence

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

E-mail: SGSecFin-SecGpMailbox@mod.uk

Ref: FOI2015/09268

17 November 2015

Dear

Thank you for your e-mail of 22 October 2015 in which you asked the following::

> *"The attached MOD guidance, entitled 'PREVENTING MALARIA IN MILITARY POPULATIONS', states:*
>
> *"26. Monitoring of Drug-related Adverse Effects. Medical officers are to report any adverse reactions to antimalaria drugs to the Committee on Safety of Medicines, using the 'yellow card' system."*
>
> *1. How many reports have been made through the 'yellow card' system which relate to an adverse reaction to the anti-malaria drug mefloquine (Larium) since 1 Jan 2010?*
>
> *2. For each of these reports, please supply the following information:*
>
> *a) the date sent*
> *b) the adverse reactions involved*
> *c) the numbers affected by them*
> *d) if possible, a copy of the report sent to the Committee."*

Your enquiry is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) takes part in the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Yellow Card scheme that requires all adverse reactions to any medication to be reported directly, by clinicians and patients, to the MHRA. The MOD therefore does not centrally record Yellow Card reports and the scheme does not provide a box to record whether a patient is military or civilian, or the organisation of the individual making the report.

The MHRA might be able to provide generic information about Yellow Card reports for mefloquine, Please visit: http://www.mhra.gov.uk/drug-analysis-prints/

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