



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 12 March 2015 requesting the following information:

“In order to establish a fuller picture could I ask you please to confirm by year from 1 April 2007 - 30 December 2014 how many of those prescriptions for Lariam were for deployments, including exercises as well as operations, in Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq or Belize.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This is also in line with Defence Statistics rounding policy, in which numbers fewer than five are suppressed in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Defence Statistics has interpreted ‘deployment’ as an Operational deployment to Afghanistan, Africa, Iraq, or Belize. Defence Statistics Health has identified the number of Service personnel who have been prescribed Lariam and were on deployment/exercise or subsequently deployed (or on exercise)^a to Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq or Belize. This number will not include any personnel who are posted out to these countries. It will also not include anyone prescribed Lariam who was due to be on deployment but who has subsequently not deployed.

Between 01 April 2007 and 31 December 2014 **16,473** UK Regular Armed Forces personnel were prescribed Lariam (Mefloquine Hydrochloride), of which **7,648** personnel were on deployment/exercise or subsequently deployed (or on exercise)^a to Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq or Belize.

Table 1 presents the number of UK Regular Armed Forces personnel who were prescribed Lariam and were on deployment or on exercise^a to Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq or Belize broken down by year.

^a Deployed on Operations on or within 43 days after the date Lariam was prescribed.

Table 1: UK Regular¹ Armed Forces personnel prescribed Lariam² while on deployment or exercise or subsequently deployed (or on exercise)³ to Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan or Belize, between 01 April 2007 – 30 December 2014, by year, number.

UK Regular Service Personnel		Of which were deployed or on exercise to ^{3,4}			
Year	Prescribed Lariam	Afghanistan	Africa	Iraq	Belize
2007	1,173	37	212	~	~
2008	1,529	31	431	~	10
2009	2,724	68	1,270	~	7
2010	3,103	53	1,509	~	~
2011	2,780	51	1,555	~	~
2012	2,082	82	1,013	0	~
2013	3,188	190	1,050	0	~
2014	1,892	18	692	0	~

Source: Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP), Joint Personnel Administration (JPA)

1. As recorded on JPA as at the time of prescription

2. As recorded in DMICP, extracted 10 February 2015.

3. Deployed on Operations/Exercise on or within 43 days after the date Lariam was prescribed.

4. Any individual prescribed Lariam more than once in a year for deployments/exercises to a different region (Afghanistan, Africa, Belize or Iraq) will be counted in each deployed region, but only once in the year total.

5. Please note, an individual may have been prescribed Lariam in more than one year and therefore the sum of each year may not equal the total number of individuals prescribed over the whole period.

6. From 1 April 2007

Data on prescriptions for Mefloquine Hydrochloride (Lariam) used in this response were derived from the integrated primary health record (iHR) within the Defence Medical Information Capability Program (DMICP) data warehouse. **Please note, this is a live system, data was extracted as at 10 February 2015 and thus patient figures may change as a result.**

Data on deployment is extracted from a live system therefore numbers relating to deployed personnel may change over time. Data on deployment was extracted as at 22 May 2015.

Personnel have been counted once in each year they were prescribed Lariam. As an individual may have been prescribed Lariam in a number of years, the sum of each year may not equal the total number of UK Regular Armed Forces personnel prescribed over the whole period. An individual prescribed Lariam more than once in a year for separate deployments to different regions (Afghanistan, Africa, Belize or Iraq) will be counted in each deployed region.

Please note, numbers presented within Table 1 does not represent the overall population of service personnel who have been on exercise or on Operation to Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq or Belize.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note

UK Regular Armed Forces personnel include trained and untrained personnel. Regular status was determined using Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) as at the time personnel were prescribed Lariam or had an initial assessment.

DMICP data

Data are compiled by Defence Statistics (Health) from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) data warehouse. The DMICP programme commenced during 2007 and comprises an integrated primary Health Record (iHR) for clinical use and a pseudo-anonymised central data warehouse. Prior to this data warehouse, medical records were kept locally, at each individual medical centre. By 2010, DMICP was in place for the UK and the majority of Germany. Rollout to other overseas locations commenced in November 2011 and is ongoing.

Please note if Lariam or Mefloquine prescriptions are recorded as free text only in the patient medical record they will not be included in the above search. DMICP is also a live record system and data presented may vary from figures previously released.

Deployment data

Deployment data is derived from the JPA 'Move and Track' system which was introduced in April 2007. Due to ongoing validation, some data may be provisional.

Personnel deployed to Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq or Belize will only include personnel who have deployed on Operation or on exercise. It will not include personnel who have been posted to these locations (for example at a British Embassy) as this is not classified as a deployment or exercise.

Deployment to Africa includes deployment to any of the following countries; Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Union of the Comoros, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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, 1st 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health)