



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 23 September 2016 requesting the following information:

“Under the FOI Act could you provide details of the number of service personnel who have had the following medical procedures since 2012.

- 1. Weight loss or weight reduction surgery*
- 2. Lipo suction*
- 3. Morbid obesity surgery*

I would like the figures broken down by sex and whether the patients were in the Army, Royal Navy or Royal Air Force.

Could you also provide details of whether the procedures were carried out by the NHS or by a private hospital and in the case of any private medical procedures, whether the bill was met by the MoD. I would also like details of any costs met by the MOD.”

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 some information in scope of your request is held by the MOD.

The information you requested on the cost of the surgical procedures listed is not held by MOD as this is held by the NHS and the devolved Administrations. The remaining information you requested is held by the MOD and has been provided below.

Between 1 January 2012 and 11 October 2016, **33 UK Armed Forces personnel had a read code for weight loss surgery** entered onto their medical record. Please note that this includes personnel that are no longer serving.

Weight loss surgery and obesity surgery encompass both surgery in order to cause weight loss and skin redundancy excision post weight reduction. The terms are all encompassing, therefore figures in Table 1 include both surgery for weight loss and morbid obesity.

**Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel with a read code for weight loss surgery, by gender and service, numbers^{1,2,3}.
1 January 2012 to 11 October 2016**

Service	Gender		
	All	Female	Male
All	33	22	11
Naval Service ⁴	8	~	~
Army	16	9	7
RAF	9	~	~

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹The tables in this report have been scrutinised to ensure individual identities have not been revealed inadvertently. In line with JSP200, numbers fewer than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'.

² Individuals with multiple read codes have only been counted once.

³ Service was taken at the date the read code was first entered in their medical record in the time period of interest.

⁴ Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

Between 1 January 2012 and 11 October 2016, **39 UK Armed Forces personnel had a read code for liposuction** entered onto their medical record. Please note that this includes personnel that are no longer serving.

**Table 2: UK Armed Forces personnel with a read code for liposuction, by gender and service, numbers^{1,2,3}.
1 January 2012 to 11 October 2016**

Service	Gender		
	All	Female	Male
All	39	23	16
Naval Service ⁴	9	~	~
Army	22	11	11
RAF	8	~	~

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹The tables in this report have been scrutinised to ensure individual identities have not been revealed inadvertently. In line with JSP200, numbers fewer than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'.

² Individuals with multiple read codes have only been counted once.

³ Service was taken at the date the read code was first entered in their medical record in the time period of interest.

⁴ Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

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

Liposuction and weight loss surgery might be provided to Service personnel on a case-by-case basis in accordance with NICE guidelines.

Please note, the liposuction and weight loss surgery figures which are provided are a minimum. If liposuction or weight loss surgery is carried out at a NHS or private hospital, the hospital may then advise a military GP if a patient has the procedure in the form of a letter. A military GP can record this information in a number of ways:

- A paper letter may be filed in a paper medical record.
- A letter may be scanned into the electronic patient record (in a pdf format)
- The GP may make notes in the medical record as free text which cannot be searched for centrally.

Joint Personnel Administration is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK Armed Forces personnel and is used to gather information on a person's service and gender.

The Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) was rolled out in 2007 and is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers.

The electronic patient record has information that is Read coded. Read codes are a set of clinical codes designed for Primary Care to record the everyday care of a Patient. They are part of a hierarchical structure and form the recognised standard for General Practice.

The following read codes were used to identify lipo-suction from DMICP:

Read Code	Description
7G2H1	Liposuction of subcutaneous tissue NEC
7G012	Abdominoplasty and liposuction
7G2H0	Liposuction of subcutaneous tissue of head or neck
7G2H4	Liposuction removal of haematoma

The following read codes were used to identify weight loss surgery from DMICP.

Read Code	Description
7613	Plastic operations on stomach
76114	Sleeve gastrectomy and duodenal switch
76115	Sleeve gastrectomy NEC
76130	Gastroplasty NEC
76131	Partitioning of stomach
76132	Laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding
76133	Partitioning of stomach using band
76134	Partitioning of stomach using staples
76135	Partitioning of stomach NEC
76136	Maintenance of gastric band
76160	Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to jejunum NEC
76161	Revision of anastomosis of stomach to jejunum NEC
76162	Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to jejunum NEC
76164	Closure connection stomach jejunum NEC
76165	Attention to connection of stomach to jejunum
76166	Laparoscopic gastric bypass
76131-1	Mason vertical banded gastroplasty
7613y	Other specified plastic operation on stomach
7613z	Plastic operation on stomach NOS
7615-1	Gastrojejunostomy, transposed
76160-2	Gastrojejunostomy NEC
76160-3	Mason high gastric bypass
76160-4	Mayo-Ward gastrojejunostomy
76160-5	Printer high gastric bypass
7616x	Conversion from previous anastomosis stomach to jejunum NEC
7616y	Other specified other connection of stomach to jejunum
7616z	Other connection of stomach to jejunum NOS
EMISNQLA66	Laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy

Any data entered as free text only in the patients' medical record will not be included in the figures presented as this information is not available in the data warehouse.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 11 October 2016.

In line with the Joint Service Publication (March 2016), all numbers less than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there is only one cell in a row or column that is less than five, the next smallest number (or numbers where there are tied values) has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk.

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) Head (B1)