



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2015/04249

Reply to: [REDACTED]

5 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 9 May 2015 in which you have requested the following information:

"For each calendar year from 2006 to 2014 inclusive please state how many members of the armed services tested positive for anabolic steroids and how many of these were dismissed from the armed services?"

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

Table A below contains relevant data addressing your FOI Request. Statistical data on misuse of anabolic steroids is not held prior to 2009 because the MOD only commenced testing for steroids in 2009.

It may be that the increase in detected incidents from 2013 to 2014 is accredited to a better understanding of the performance enhancing supplement / steroid misuse issue and a more educated testing regimen. We expect that the combination of education on the adverse effects of unauthorised drugs and deterrence through Compulsive Drug Testing should see future steroid results plateau, if not decline.

It is not possible to match the positive results to discharge or other exit figures because the data is not held centrally. However, the misuse of drugs in the Armed Forces is inconsistent with Service life and our policy can be described as 'zero tolerance'. Any Serviceman/woman found to have been taking drugs illegally can expect to be discharged. Only if there are exceptional circumstances, and the chain of command can provide a justification for the unusual response of retention, will such an outcome be considered.

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, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

TABLE A. POSITIVE RESULTS FOR ANABOLIC STEROID MISUSE - 2009 TO 2014

Year	Results
2009	20
2010	40
2011	60
2012	40
2013	130
2014	120

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 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 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Defence People Secretariat