



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Our Reference: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated [REDACTED] in which you requested the following information:

- 1) The amount of positive results to Compulsory Drug Tests (CDT) in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016(as of August 31st) with respect to a) Army b) Navy and C) Airforce.
- 2) Figures of dishonourable discharges as a result of CDT for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- 3) Please provide a breakdown of the substances being recorded in the event of a positive CDT in respect of a) b) & c).
- 4) In each of the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, can you provide a tally for how many of those who tested positive were between the age of 16 – 24, 25 – 32, 33 – 40 and 41 years or older?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A review of our data holdings has been completed, and I can confirm that the MOD does hold some information within the scope of your request; this is provided in the attached Annex. Some of the Data is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain at the following addresses:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/527275/HOCS_FOI_2016_Information_of_Army_personnel_drugs_test_abuse_from_2014_to_2016.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/470190/20151014-FOI_2015_08240-RAF_CDT_data_1995_to_2014.pdf

Drug misuse is incompatible with life in the Armed Forces and will not be tolerated, it is considered incompatible with military service and operational effectiveness. Personnel caught taking drugs can expect to be discharged. The MOD has a policy of CDT, which seeks to reinforce the message that drug use by Service personnel is unacceptable.

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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,

Defence People

Royal Navy

Year	No of Positive Tests	Discharged (Service No Longer Required)	Type of Drug				
			Cocaine	Cannabis	Ecstasy	Steroids	Other
2012	30	30	20	10	~	-	~
2013	50	40	20	10	~	~	10
2014	50	50	30	~	~	10	~
2015	40	40	20	10	10	10	~
2016 (To Date)	50	40	30	10	10	~	~

1) 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, where “~” denotes a number less than or equal to five. When rounding up to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

2) The Royal Navy are not required to collect data regarding age for Compulsory Drug Testing and therefore is not included in this data return.

3) 2013 data includes one individual who was not classified as a proper CDT failure.

4) 2016 data includes 10 cases which are currently ongoing.

British Army

Year	No of Positive Tests	Discharged	Type of Drug							
			Cocaine	Ecstasy	Heroin	Cannabis	Benzo	Steroids	Ketamin	Others
2012	520	No data available	300	50	-	160	20	-	-	10
2013	570	140 (From 9 October)	300	50	-	120	10	110	-	10
2014				Information already available						
2015										
2016 (To Date)	490	180 (from 28 April and 31 August 2016)	310	50	-	90	-	20	-	10

CDT Positive Test by Age

Year	Age			
	16-24	25-32	33-40	41 Years +
2012	370	120	20	-
2013	330	140	20	-
2014	360	140	20	-
2015	400	150	20	-
2016 (To 21 August 2016)	280	110	10	10

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2) The term ‘dishonourable discharge’ is not recognised within Army data holdings. However information is available regarding discharges as a result of CDT.

3) The figures above do not include individuals who have been discharged for admitting to having taken drugs/controlled substances.

4) Data provided does not identify those individuals who have returned more than 1 substance at a single CDT, as there may be more than one positive result for a test.

5) No electronic data available for discharges from 1 January 2012-8 October 2013. A manual search of individual P-files would breach FOI timelines.

Royal Air Force

Year	No of Positive Tests	Type of Drug							
		Cocaine	Ecstasy	Heroin	Cannabis	Benzo	Steroids	Ketamin	Others
2012	20	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		
2013	30	Y	Y		Y		Y		
2014	40	Y	Y		Y		Y		
2015	30	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		
2016 (Up to Aug 31)	30	20	~		~		~		~

CDT Positive Test by Age

Year	Age			
	16-24	25-32	33-40	41 Years +
2012	10	10	-	-
2013	20	10	~	-
2014	20	20	~	~
2015	20	10	~	-
2016 (To 21 August 2016)	10	10	~	-

1) 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, where “~” denotes a number less than or equal to five. When rounding up to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

2) RAF have advised that to breakdown each failed drugs test as requested in Question 3 for the period 2012-2015 would incur disproportionate cost as requested information is not held centrally.

3) Data regarding dishonourable discharges as a result of CDT is unavailable. RAF Personnel would be discharged under a misconduct of the Queens Regulations not a dishonourable one. However some information regarding RAF CDT discharges is available in the links provided in the main body of this letter.