



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

8 November 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 15 September 2016 and 13 October 2016 requesting the following information:

“with regard to service personnel with severe allergies in the Army:

- 1. How many serving service personnel have a nut allergy?*
- 2. How many have continued employment in their original trade or arm having been identified with a nut allergy?*
- 3. Are some of those individuals with a nut allergy medically downgraded and if so to what?*
- 4. Do any of those individuals remain MFD?”*

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

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.

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 JSP 200 (March 2016), 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.

There were **72** UK Army Regular personnel serving at 1 September 2016 who were identified as having a code for a nut allergy entered into their electronic medical record between 1 January 2007 and 1 September 2016. As at 1 September 2016:

- The majority of these personnel continued employment in their original Arm/Corps. **Fewer than five** personnel did not continue employment in their original Arm/Corps.
- **33** of these personnel were downgraded; **17** to Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) and **16** to Medically Non-Deployable (MND).

- **39** remained Medically Fully Deployable (MFD).

Please note, changes in Arm/Corps and downgradings may or may not be a result of the nut allergy.

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

There were an additional **30** non-Regular UK Army personnel serving at 1 September 2016 who were identified as having a code for a nut allergy entered into their electronic medical record between 1 January 2007 and 1 September 2016. Any changes in Arm/Corps are due to movements between the non-Regular and Regular population rather than a true change in Arm/Corp.

- **12** of these personnel were downgraded; **6** to Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) and **6** to Medically Non-Deployable (MND).
- **18** remained Medically Fully Deployable (MFD).

Service and Arm/Corps were both taken at the date the read code was first entered in their electronic medical record. Arm/Corps from this date was then compared to Arm/Corps as at 1 September 2016. Please note, some personnel may have changed Arm/Corps between these two dates.

The information provided is based on those that have changed Arm/Corps. It is possible to remain within the same Arm/Corps whilst changing trade and or role within that Arm/Corps. Since the implementation of the New Employment Model it is not possible to appropriately identify change of trade within Defence Stats data due to the renaming and re-categorisation of main trade for pay.

UK Army Regulars are full time Service personnel, including Nursing Services, excluding FTRS personnel, Gurkhas, mobilised Reservists, Military Provost Guarding Service (MPGS), Locally Engaged Personnel (LEP), and Non Regular Permanent Service (NRPS).

The number of medical downgradings has been compiled using the Defence Statistics “derived” field which utilises a combination of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) and Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) Medical Deployment Standard (MDS).

The Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. DMICP was rolled out in 2007 and legacy medical data for currently serving personnel was migrated across during rollout. The data presented here has been extracted from the DMICP management information system and matched to JPA (personnel) data. JPA 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 Arm/Corps.

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 READ code SN582 for peanut allergy and SN583 for nut allergy were used to extract cases from DMICP.

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. Where a patient has failed to inform their GP they have a nut allergy, they will not be included in the dataset.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 18 October 2016.

Service personnel with medical conditions or fitness issues which affect their ability to perform their duties are referred to a medical board for a medical examination and review of their medical grading. The patient may be downgraded, to allow for treatment and rehabilitation. Medically downgraded personnel are those personnel who have been assessed by a medical board and subsequently awarded a Medical Deployability Standard (MDS) of either Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) or Medically Non Deployable (MND).

MLD personnel are medically fit for duty with minor employment limitations. MLD personnel may have a medical condition or functional limitation that prevents the meeting of all Medically Fully Deployable (MFD) requirements. In accordance with Joint Service Publication 950 Leaflet 6-7-2 (Nov 09), "a grade of MLD requires a risk assessment to be carried out for each deployment and the decision on that deployment will depend on the medical condition, individual function, the proposed employment, length of the deployment and the medical support available".

MND personnel are medically fit for duty with major employment limitations or are medically unfit for Service. MND personnel have a medical condition or functional limitation that prevents the meeting of all MLD requirements. They may require continued medical care, long term medication and access to secondary care facilities

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/>.

I hope you find this information useful

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics Health Head (B1)