



Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI2015/03866 RFI:81/15

Date: 12 May 2015

By email - [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND TESTING

I write in regards to your email dated 15 April 2015 which was acknowledged on 16 April 2015.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

“With reference to the home office circular “Testing police officers for substance misuse” dated April 2012 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/testing-police-officers-for-substance-misuse>) all relating to the last 12 months:

1a/ How often and how many officers have been tested for drug and alcohol misuse under the regimen of random testing for general staff in your police force?

1b/ How often and how many officers have been tested for drug and alcohol misuse under the regimen of random testing for staff considered to be in vulnerable roles in your police force?

1c/ How many officers/roles are considered to be in vulnerable roles, as described in the circular? What are their roles?

2a/ How many police officers (as a number and as a percentage of those tested) have been referred to Professional Standards following testing positive for drugs and/or alcohol from random testing of general staff. What disciplinary action was taken following the referrals?

2b/ How many police officers (as a number and as a percentage of those tested) have been referred to Professional Standards following testing positive for drugs and/or alcohol from random testing of vulnerable staff. What disciplinary action was taken following the referrals?

3/ How many officers have self-declared themselves to Occupational Health with problems relating to drug or alcohol misuse?

4/ How many officers in total does your force have that would be considered eligible for random testing?"

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The MOD Police have regard to the Home Office Circular and the relevant police regulations but are not bound by the same legislation as geographical forces in England & Wales. All MOD police officers are subject to random and 'with cause' drugs and alcohol testing. The force aims to randomly test 10% of all officers annually.

1a/ How often and how many officers have been tested for drug and alcohol misuse under the regimen of random testing for general staff in your police force?

297 officers were tested between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015.

1b/ How often and how many officers have been tested for drug and alcohol misuse under the regimen of random testing for staff considered to be in vulnerable roles in your police force?

None. All officers are tested under the same programme.

1c/ How many officers/roles are considered to be in vulnerable roles, as described in the circular? What are their roles?

None. All officers are tested under the same programme.

2a/ How many police officers (as a number and as a percentage of those tested) have been referred to Professional Standards following testing positive for drugs and/or alcohol from random testing of general staff. What disciplinary action was taken following the referrals?

None during the period April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

2b/ How many police officers (as a number and as a percentage of those tested) have been referred to Professional Standards following testing positive for drugs and/or alcohol from random testing of vulnerable staff. What disciplinary action was taken following the referrals?

None.

3/ How many officers have self-declared themselves to Occupational Health with problems relating to drug or alcohol misuse?

No information held. We have no records of staff self declarations.

4/ How many officers in total does your force have that would be considered eligible for random testing?"

2,522 as at 31 March 2015.

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 Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (email 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 the 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

MDP Sec Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office