



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2016/11406

Reply to: [Redacted]

14 December 2016

Dear [Redacted],

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

*“Under the FOI Act, could you please advise on the number of serving military personnel who have tested positive for steroid abuse in the last two years.*

*If possible I would like the figures broken down by unit and sex”*

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

The table below shows the number of serving UK Service personnel who have tested positive for steroid abuse in the last two years. The MOD conduct compulsory drug tests because substance misuse is incompatible with service life. Only around 0.3% of the armed forces fail them and anyone who falls short of our high standards can expect to be discharged.

Due to the very low numbers when the data is broken down by unit / gender, individuals may be identifiable. We therefore consider that such information is exempt from disclosure as it is personal information which is exempt under Section 40 of the FOI Act and have only provided numbers by service.

Year	Royal Navy	Army	Royal Air Force
2015	10	20	~
2016	~	20	~

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 zero, “~” denotes a number less than or equal to five. When rounding up to the nearest 10, numbers ending in a “5” have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards. For example; a value of ‘25’ would be rounded down to ‘20’ and a value of ‘15’ would be rounded up to ‘20’.

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,

Ground Floor, Zone D, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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 FOI 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 Secretariat FOI