



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2017/02811

Email to: [REDACTED]

30 March 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 28 February 2017 in which you requested the following information:

“Please provide details of the numbers of servicemen (Navy, Army and RAF) who have been:

A) Disciplined and B) Discharged from the services for steroid or supplement misuse. Please provide these figures for 2016 to the present day.

Please provide details of rank, regiment/ship and ages for those cases.”

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

For misuse of steroids or for supplement abuse; during the period 1 January 2016 to 1 March 2017:

Service	Number of personnel discharged	
Royal Navy	~	
Army	30	Note1 refers
RAF	10	

Note1

This includes admissions of use as well as from positive drug test results. All of these individuals were administratively discharged under Queens Regulations 1975 - Service No Longer Required.

Administrative action is usually taken when Service personnel are caught taking drugs or misusing steroids. These individuals are not disciplined; because Service personnel caught taking drugs or for steroid misuse can expect to be discharged. In a very small number of exceptional circumstances, where an uncharacteristic mistake is made by a young individual, second chances may be considered. This only happens where the person has already shown great promise and they fully meet the stipulated retention criteria.

Please be advised that the details of rank, regiment/ship and ages such personnel are exempt under Section 40 of the FOI Act (Personal Data), because individuals could be identified by the release of this information.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, disclosure control has been applied to the figures provided herewith. Disclosure control is necessary when presenting any statistical or numeric information to safeguard the confidentiality of individuals, to protect commercially sensitive information, or where sharing the statistics may pose a threat to security.

Therefore figures provided in this response 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’.

Further information about MOD disclosure control is available at this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/561507/MOD_Statistics_-_Disclosure_Control_and_Rounding_Policy-amd.pdf

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). 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,

(Original Signed)
Defence People Secretariat