



Ministry
of Defence

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Reference: **FOI 2017/07747**

31 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 3 August 2017 requesting the following information:

"I am trying to gather national and regional details for statistical and trend analysis of the infection within the Mod for presentation to Chambers. Therefore could you please provide the following information from dates Jan 2000-Aug 2017 for MoD personnel in the category of Lyme Disease as described above:

1. Any record of correspondence and details from meetings between RAF Halton including the SMO, EH Tech, Medical Services, Airman's Command School (ACS) staff and local authorities regarding Lyme Disease?
2. How many MoD personnel have been tested for Lyme Disease in the UK?
3. How many MoD personnel have been confirmed as infected/contracted Lyme Disease while serving in the UK?
4. How many MoD personnel have been tested for Lyme Disease in the Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Greater London counties?
5. How many MoD personnel have been confirmed as infected/contracted Lyme Disease in Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Greater London counties?
6. How many MoD personnel have been tested at RAF Halton or associated treatment with/for tick bites while serving at RAF Halton?
7. How many MoD personnel have been confirmed as infected/contracted Lyme Disease following attendance/visit/training at RAF Halton from other units?
8. How many MoD personnel at RAF Brize Norton have been tested for Lyme Disease?
9. How many MoD personnel at RAF Brize Norton have been confirmed as infected/contracted Lyme Disease?
10. How many MoD personnel at RAF Benson have been tested for Lyme Disease?
11. How many MoD personnel at RAF Benson have been confirmed as infected/contracted Lyme Disease?
12. How many MoD personnel at RAF High Wycombe have been tested for Lyme Disease?
13. How many MoD personnel at RAF High Wycombe have been confirmed as infected/contracted Lyme Disease?
14. How many MoD personnel at RAF Odiham have been tested for Lyme Disease?
15. *How many MoD personnel at RAF Odiham have been confirmed as infected/contracted Lyme Disease?"*

Following communication with Defence Statistics Health Head of Branch in the week commencing 7 August 2017, you agreed that Defence Statistics would provide:

- The number of UK Armed Forces personnel with a Read code for Lyme disease entered in their electronic medical record since 1 January 2007.
- The numbers of UK Armed Forces personnel with a Read code for Lyme disease first entered at the locations requested above since 1 January 2007.

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held by the MOD.

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 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.

Between 1 January 2007 and 25 August 2017 (date of data extract) **540** UK Armed Forces personnel serving worldwide had a read code for Lyme disease entered at least once in their electronic medical record. Of these 540 personnel, **241** had the Lyme disease read code first entered in their record in the UK. **Table 1** presents these 241 personnel by the Local Area Authority (LAA) requested.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces Personnel with read code for Lyme disease, by Local Area Authority of first electronic medical record entry, numbers

1 January 2007 to 25 August 2017

Local Area Authority	Number
Total	241
Buckinghamshire	< 5
Central Bedfordshire	0
Gloucestershire	< 5
Hampshire	18
Hertfordshire	< 5
Outer London	< 5
Oxfordshire	19
Surrey	9
Warwickshire	0
West Berkshire	0
Wiltshire	51
Other UK	133

Source: DMICP

In line with JSP 200 on statistical disclosure, figures less than five have been suppressed and presented as <5

Of the 241 UK Armed Forces personnel who first had the Lyme disease read code entered into their electronic medical record in the UK, **18** personnel first had codes entered at the RAF stations requested;

- 10 were entered at RAF Brize Norton (Oxfordshire LAA)
- Fewer than 5 were entered at RAF Benson (Oxfordshire LAA)
- Fewer than 5 were entered at RAF Odiham (Hampshire LAA)
- Fewer than 5 were entered at RAF Halton (Buckinghamshire LAA)
- Fewer than 5 were entered at RAF High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire LAA)

Under Section 16 Advice and Assistance you may find it useful to note:

Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) has a centralised data warehouse of coded information. It is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers.

Medical data is stored in the DMICP data warehouse using Read codes. A search for Read code "A8710 – Lyme disease" was used to identify Service personnel with codes entered in their medical record relating to Lyme disease. Please note that the medical centre location where the code was first entered into the patient's record may not be the same as the location that the person first contracted the disease. In addition, the code A8710 reflects the examining Doctors opinion as to whether the condition is Lyme disease and does not reflect a definitive diagnosis. It can be recorded on the basis of clinical examination and independent of serological findings. Subsequent serological testing may identify a different diagnosis. In addition, serological results do not necessarily equate to having Lyme disease and may reflect previous infection at an earlier time from which the individual has fully recovered.

Please note that if Lyme disease was entered as free text only in a patients' medical record it was not included in the figures presented, as this information is not available in the data warehouse.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 25 August 2017.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely
Defence Statistics Health