



Ministry
of Defence

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[Redacted]

10 July 2017

[Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 10 June in which you asked for the following information:

- Can you please tell me where I can find the army's compulsory drug test reports for the last three years, showing a) how many tests were administered; b) how many soldiers tested positive; and c) how many soldiers who tested positive were discharged as a consequence?

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

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds this information. The information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain at the following links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614330/20170328-FOI2017_02808.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/527275/HOCS_FOI_2016_Information_of_Army_personnel_drugs_test_abuse_from_2014_to_2016.pdf

The data in relation to 2017 has, however, been updated as follows:

	2017 as at 31 May
No of tests	33628
No of positive tests	254
No of discharges	284

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that Personnel caught taking drugs can expect to be discharged. In a very small number of exceptional circumstances, where an uncharacteristic mistake is made by a young Service Person, second chances may be considered. This only happens where a Commanding Officer believes the individual meets the stipulated retention criteria. These retention criteria are laid out in Joint Service Publication 835, which is available on the gov.uk website. You may find it useful to note that some individuals will not be discharged in the same year as they failed the CDT. This is because the unit will undertake an investigation and then subsequently apply to retain or discharge.

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, 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>.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]