



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics (Health)
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423

E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-
FOI@mod.uk

Ref: FOI2016/11408

21 December 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

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

“Under the FOI Act can you advise on how many armed forces personnel have been prescribed the drug Viagra, or similar drugs, in the past two years.”

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held by the MOD.

Between 1 December 2014 and 30 November 2016, **1,380** UK Armed Forces personnel had a prescription for Viagra or a similar drug entered in to their electronic patient record.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

It is not possible to identify from centrally held coded information the condition for which the drugs were prescribed. Viagra can be prescribed for erectile dysfunction, but other similar drugs can be prescribed for benign prostatic hyperplasia or for pulmonary hypertension by a specialist.

The Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) was rolled out in 2007 and is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers.

Data were matched to the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system to identify UK Armed Forces personnel. JPA is the most accurate source for demographic information.

The following drug names were used to identify prescriptions for Viagra or other similar drugs in DMICP:

- Viagra
- Sildenafil Citrate
- Revatio
- Vizarsin
- Nipatra
- Avanafil
- Spedra
- Tadalafil
- Cialis
- Vardenafil
- Levitra

Any data entered as free text only in the patients' medical record will not be 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 8 December 2016.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk.

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, 1st 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,

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)