



Ministry
of Defence

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

Telephone [MOD]: +44 (0)30679 84423
Facsimile [MOD]: +44 (0)1179 319634
E-mail: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk

Reference: FOI2017/05900

Date: 17 July 2017

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 15 June 2017 requesting the following information:

“Could you please provide me with a break down for each of the last three years (2014, 2015 and 2016) for the number of military personnel who had an alcohol abuse/misuse entered into their medical records? Could you please break these figures down by Army, Navy, RAF and also gender?”

Could you please provide me with a break down for each of the last three years (2014, 2015 and 2016) for the number of military personnel who had a sexually transmitted disease entered into their medical records? Could you please break these figures down by Army, Navy, RAF and also gender?”

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, and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2016 **4,256** UK Armed Forces personnel had at least one read code for alcohol abuse/misuse entered onto their electronic Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) primary health care record. This information is presented by calendar year, Service, and gender in **Table 1**.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel¹ with an alcohol abuse/misuse read code by calendar year, Service² and gender³, 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016

Calendar Year	All Personnel			Naval Service ²			Army			RAF		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
All	4,256	3,922	334	862	782	80	2,962	2,779	183	432	361	71
2014	1,777	1,631	146	349	316	33	1,261	1,177	84	167	138	29
2015	1,696	1,566	130	352	316	36	1,165	1,101	64	179	149	30
2016	1,519	1,398	121	332	300	32	1,010	949	61	177	149	28

Source: DMICP, JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained Regular and Reservist Personnel.

² Naval Service include Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

³ Personnel are only included once overall and once per calendar year but may be entered in more than one year, thus subtotals will not sum to the overall total.

Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2016, **6,454** UK Armed Forces personnel have had a diagnostic read code for a sexually transmitted disease (STD) entered onto their electronic Defence Medical Information

Capability Programme (DMICP) primary health care record. This information is presented by calendar year, Service and gender in **Table 2**.

Table 2: UK Armed Forces personnel¹ with an STD read code, by calendar year, Service and gender, numbers^{3,4}
1 January 2014 to 31 December

Calendar Year	All Personnel			Naval Service ²			Army			RAF		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
All	6,454	5,780	674	1,390	1,278	112	3,985	3,591	394	1,079	911	168
2014	2,925	2,624	301	624	576	48	1,809	1,637	172	492	411	81
2015	2,688	2,372	316	587	548	39	1,657	1,455	202	444	369	75
2016	2,629	2,352	277	587	530	57	1,596	1,446	150	446	376	70

Source: DMICP, JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained Regular and Reservist Personnel

² Naval services include Royal Navy and Royal Marines

³ Personnel are only included once overall and once per calendar year but may be entered in more than one year, thus subtotals will not sum to the overall total

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it useful to note the following:

The Alcohol Usage in the UK Armed Forces Official Statistic will be published on 20th July 2017¹ on www.gov.uk. This will be a one-off statistic on a Defence initiative to introduce an alcohol screening tool (the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test-Consumption (AUDIT-C)) and brief advice (an Alcohol Brief Intervention) for all UK Armed Forces personnel attending routine dental inspections.

Personnel include all UK Armed Forces Regular and Reservist Personnel. This does not include entitled or non-entitled civilians, Foreign Service or non UK military. This response relates to all personnel who had a DMICP record and served between 2014 and 2016, and is not limited to the currently serving population.

As within wider society, there is no quick fix to reduce alcohol misuse in the Armed Forces. We provide a package of measures to educate personnel on the dangers of alcohol misuse to help them make informed decisions, and have introduced extensive policy and guidance for Commanders.

We also have rigorous processes in place to discipline personnel who make poor choices regarding alcohol consumption, as well as treatment mechanisms in place for those with genuine alcohol problems.

It is Defence policy that Service personnel can choose to attend NHS and private sexual health clinics. Therefore, these figures may not represent all personnel who have had a STD within the time period.

Data are compiled by Defence Statistics (Health) from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) data warehouse. The DMICP programme commenced during 2007 and comprises an integrated primary Health Record (iHR) for clinical use and a pseudo-anonymised central data warehouse. Prior to this data warehouse, medical records were kept locally, at each individual medical centre. By 2010, DMICP was in place for the UK and the majority of Germany. Rollout to other overseas locations commenced in November 2011. The data between 2007 and 2010 may be incomplete due to the rollout of the electronic medical record system, therefore numbers presented are a minimum.

Medical data is stored in the DMICP data warehouse using read codes. Data on Service personnel with codes entered on their medical record relating to alcohol related medical problems and alcohol and STDs abuse/misuse has been sourced from DMICP.

Please see the Annex A for a list of the read codes that have been searched for alcohol abuse/misuse and STD.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/alcohol-usage-in-the-uk-armed-forces>

The conditions for inclusion were identified from the Sexual Health and HIV Activity Property Type (SHHAPT) coding. This is the way in which Public Health England have directed that Sexual Health and HIV activity be recorded both within Sexual Health clinics and within Defence Primary Health Care.

For some of the conditions searched for sexual transmission is not the only route of transmission, therefore these figures may overestimate the number of personnel with an STD.

Please note that if information was entered as free text in the patient record then it is not available in the DMICP data warehouse and will not be retrieved using the search for read codes.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 20 June 2017.

Please note, DMICP is a live system and thus patient figures may change as a result.

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK Armed Forces personnel and is used to gather information on a person's service and gender.

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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics (Health)