



Ministry
of Defence

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[Redacted]

15 May 2016

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 11 April 2017 requesting the following information:

*"Under the FOI act, can you provide details of the number of UK Armed Forces personnel with diagnostic read code for a sexually transmitted disease since April 2016.
If possible I would like the figures broken down by service, sex and the name of disease"*

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 information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested is enclosed.

Between 1 April 2016 and 12 April 2017, **2,340** UK Armed Forces personnel have had a diagnostic read code for a sexually transmitted disease (STD) entered into their electronic primary health care record¹. Please note that this includes personnel that are no longer serving.

Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel with a STD read code by category, Service and gender, numbers^{1,2}
1 April 2016 and 12 April 2017

STD Category	Service											
	All			Naval Service			Army			RAF		
	All	Males	Females	All	Males	Females	All	Males	Females	All	Males	Females
All	2,340	2,063	277	504	459	45	1,443	1,266	177	393	338	55
Chlamydia	883	762	125	191	167	24	565	485	80	127	107	20
Genital Herpes	387	287	100	86	71	15	229	171	58	72	45	27
Genital Warts	419	392	27	78	~	~	274	255	19	67	~	~
Hepatitis B & C	36	~	~	~	~	0	30	~	~	~	~	0
HIV	55	45	10	~	~	0	41	31	10	~	~	0
PID and epididymitis	581	564	20	142	~	~	322	310	12	117	~	~
Other STDs ³	44	~	~	9	~	~	30	~	~	~	~	0

Source: DMICP

1. Personnel have been counted once per STD category and only once overall, thus the sum of all STD categories will not equal the overall number of STDs i.e. if personnel had a read code for Chlamydia and a Genital Herpes, they would be counted once in each STD category in the table above but only once in the overall total.

2. Personnel who have changed Service during the time period have been counted in their Service at the earliest date of a STD read code with in time period.

3. Other STDs includes: Gonorrhoea, Molluscum contagiosa, Pediculosis Pubis, Syphilis, Trichomonas and unspecified STDs

¹ Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP)

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

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. Specific conditions have also been searched for and categorised in line with the SHHAPT coding.

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.

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.

It is not possible to identify from the coded information which patients are currently experiencing a particular medical condition. The codes only show the number of personnel who have had a code entered in their record for a condition.

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. DMICP was rolled out in 2007 and legacy medical data for currently serving personnel was migrated across during rollout.

Please see the Annex A for a list of the read codes that have been searched for.

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 12 April 2017.

The tables in this report have been scrutinised to ensure individual identities have not been revealed inadvertently. In line with JSP 200 (March 2016), all numbers less than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there is only one cell in a row or column that is less than five, the next smallest number (or numbers where there are tied values) has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

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, 2nd 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) Head (B1)