



# Ministry of Defence

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Ref: FOI2017/10667

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23 November 2017

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 27 October 2017 requesting the following information:

*"...do you have any kind of statistics that you can share with me in regards to how many service personnel you have in the army/navy/RAF/reserves, who are in fact on the [autism] spectrum please?"*

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.

As at 1 October 2017 **231** serving UK Regular Armed Forces personnel and **32** UK Armed Forces Reservists had at least one Read code for autism or Asperger's Syndrome entered onto their electronic primary health care record (DMICP) (**Table 1**).

**Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel<sup>1</sup> with a Read code for autism or Asperger's Syndrome by Service and Regular/Reserve, numbers<sup>2</sup>**

As at 1 October 2017

	Regulars	Reservists
<b>All</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>32</b>
Naval Service <sup>3</sup>	51	0
Army	146	~
RAF	34	~

Source: DMICP and JPA

1. Includes all Trained and Untrained, Regular and Reserve personnel in service as at 1 October 2017.

2. In line with JSP 200 on statistical disclosure, figures fewer than five have been suppressed.

3. Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

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

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.

The Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) 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.

The electronic patient record has information that is Read coded. Read codes are a set of clinical codes designed for Primary Care to record the everyday care of a Patient. They are part of a hierarchical

structure and form the recognised standard for General Practice. The data entered has been collected using the following Read Codes:

**Eu845** Asperger's syndrome  
**E140-2** Autism  
**Eu841** Atypical autism

Any data entered as free text only in patients' medical record will not be included in the figures presented as this information is not available in the data warehouse.

Please note that all Reserve personnel in service as at 1 October 2017 were included. This includes Reserves for whom the NHS may be the main provider of care instead of the MOD. In these cases, Read codes would only be entered onto the patient's electronic medical record where the MOD was notified by the patient or the NHS. Therefore, Reserve numbers are a minimum.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 31 October 2017.

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

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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)