



Ministry
of Defence

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Thank you for your email of 23 May in which you requested the following information:

This request concerns soldiers sent home from foreign deployment.

- 1) Please state the number of soldiers that have had to be returned to the UK from foreign deployments due to testing positive for drugs.

Please provide information each of for the following financial years:

- i) 2012/13
- ii) 2013/14
- iii) 2014/15
- iv) 2015/16
- v) 2016/17
- vi) 2017/18 to 23/05/17

- 2) Please state the number of soldiers that have had to be returned to the UK from foreign deployments due to testing positive for a sexually transmitted infection.

Please provide information for the following financial years:

- i) 2012/13
- ii) 2013/14
- iii) 2014/15
- iv) 2015/16
- v) 2016/17
- vi) 2017/18 to 23/05/17

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

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

FY	Number of Positive CDT on Overseas Deployments
2012/13	80
2013/14	100
2014/15	90
2015/16	90
2016/17	110
2017/18 to 23/05/2017	0

Notes.

This information covers 14 countries.

Data has been rounded to the nearest multiple of 10. Rounding is necessary, as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity; it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users.

FY	Number of Returns to UK for Medical Treatment
2012/13	0
2014/14	0
2014/15	0
2015/16	0
2016/17	0
2017/18 to 23/05/2017	0

Notes.

Data has been rounded to the nearest multiple of 10. Rounding is necessary, as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity; it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users.

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.

Policy mandates that individuals returning positive analysis are not to remain on or deploy on operational tours such as Afghanistan etc. For those serving on overseas deployments, Brunei, Canada, Germany etc they will remain in the Chain of Command at that location until the administrative process is complete.

Most simple Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) are treated by primary healthcare and therefore do not require a return to the UK. For more complex STI that cannot be treated through primary care individuals will be returned to the UK for treatment.

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 contact information]