



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2017/03540

Reply to: [REDACTED]

18 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

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

- “1. For the 2016 calendar year, please provide:*
- a) The number of Compulsory Drug Tests (CDT) carried out in Armed Forces for each year*
 - b) The number of CDTs that tested positive for each year*
 - c) The number of positive tests broken down by class of drug for each year*
 - d) The number of positive tests broken down by army corps such as parachute regiment or royal engineers for each year”*

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

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information relating to your request. The data is presented in Annexe A to this letter.

The MOD conducts compulsory drug tests because substance misuse is incompatible with Service life. Fewer than 0.3% of those tested under the MOD's Compulsory Drug Testing programme return a positive result and anyone who falls short of our high standards can expect to be disciplined. In a very small number of exceptional circumstances, second chances may be considered. This only happens where a Commanding Officer believes the individual meets the stipulated retention criteria. These are laid out in Joint Service Publication (JSP) 835 which also details the MOD's process for dealing with a positive CDT result. JSP 835 is available on the gov.uk website:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425401/20131101-JSP_835-V2_0-U.pdf

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, Zone D, 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 FOI 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat FOI

UK MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Positive Compulsory Drug Test (CDT) Results 1 January 16 to 31 December 16

Number Tested	Positive *Individual	Class A	Class B	Class C
93830	740	630	170	40

*Some individuals are found positive for more than one drug

CDT Results by army corps - 1 January 16 to 31 December 16

Army Corps	Positive
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	10
Royal Engineers	70
Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	20
Foot Guards	50
Household Cavalry	~
Mercian Regiment	40
Parachute Regiment	20
Princess of Wales Regiment	10
Royal Anglian Regiment	20
Royal Armoured Corps	30
Royal Army Medical Corps	10
Royal Corps of Signals	40
Royal Logistic Corps	80
Royal Regiment of Artillery	60
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	10
Royal Regiment of Scotland	60
The Rifles	40
The Royal Welsh	10
Yorkshire Regiment	30
Others (incl RMP & MPGS, RAVC, Dental Corp, ARTD)**	140

** Royal Military Police / Military Provost Guard Service / Royal Army Veterinary Corps / Army Recruitment and Training Division

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, the figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 10, where “-” denotes zero, “~” denotes a number less than or equal to five. When rounding up to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.