



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2018/03436

Reply to: [REDACTED]

16 April 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 7 March 2018 requesting the following information:

“Could you provide the members of each of the armed forces who failed CDT in 2017,seperated by service, please break down the RN by ship or base. The RAF by squadron or station.The armed forces by commisioned or NCO.”

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

The MOD holds information within scope of your request.

In accordance with Section 40 of the FOI Act, the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, disclosure control has been applied to the figures provided herewith. Disclosure control is necessary when presenting any statistical or numeric information to safeguard the confidentiality of individuals or where sharing the statistics may pose a threat to security.

Table A - Service personnel who failed CDT in 2017, separated by Service and Rank

Positive CDT Results in 2017	Commissioned Officers	Other Ranks
Royal Navy / Royal Marines	~	70
Army	-	660
Royal Air Force	~	60

The figures provided in Table A of this response 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 a “5” have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent the systematic bias caused by always rounding numbers upwards. For example; a value of ‘25’ would be rounded down to ‘20’ and a value of ‘15’ would be rounded up to ‘20’.

Tables B and C below display the locations where Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel provided Positive CDT results in 2017. A further breakdown is exempt under Section 40 of the FOI Act, the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the

protection of confidentiality. Disclosure of the data in Tables B and C, if broken down further, could be used to identify personnel due to the low numbers.

Table B – Royal Navy / Royal Marines Positive results found at following units:

Establishment / Unit	
30 Commando RM	Portsmouth Flotilla HQ
40 Commando RM	RM Poole
42 Commando RM	RNAS Culdrose
Commando Training Centre RM	RNAS Yeovilton
Defence Medical Group	Southern Diving Unit 1
HMS Albion	HMS Queen Elizabeth
HMS Collingwood	HMS Raleigh
HMS Dauntless	HMS Submarine
HMS Drake	HMS Sultan Sultan
HMS Nelson	HMS Torbay
HMS Neptune	

Table C – Royal Air Force Positive results found at following stations:

Establishment / Station	
RAF Akrotiri	RAF Marham
RAF Benson	RAF Northolt
RAF Boulmer	RAF Odiham
RAF Brize Norton	RAF Scampton
RAF Coningsby	RAF Waddington
RAF Cosford	RAFC Cranwell
RAF Halton	Southwick Park
RAF Henlow	MOD St Athan
RAF Honington	MOD Stafford
RAF Leeming	Normandy Barracks, Leconfield
RAF Lossiemouth	

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act I can advise you that to assure ourselves that Service Personnel remain drug free we provide education and conduct comprehensive Compulsory Drug Testing (CDT). Drugs misuse is incompatible with Service; it goes against the standards that we expect of our Service personnel and degrades operational effectiveness. Personnel caught taking drugs can expect to be discharged. In exceptional circumstances where an uncharacteristic mistake is made by a young individual, retention may be considered.

The power to authorise retention under exceptional circumstances has always existed within Joint Service Policy. Exceptionally, in some cases of drug misuse involving young Service personnel the CO may consider that the offender need not be discharged from the Service. Tri-Service policy allows Commanding Officers to recommend the retention of personnel where it is a first-time offence, the individual concerned is under 25, below the rank of leading hand or corporal and the prospect for reforming the individual is considered good, they are considered in all other respects a promising Serviceman/Servicewoman whose retention would be in the interests of the Service.

All exceptional retention cases, regardless of reason for retention, are compulsorily retested for a period of five years and any subsequent failure will result in automatic discharge.

Although it is recognised that a small minority of Service personnel take drugs, it should be stressed that drugs misuse is not widespread and is contained by the deterrent effect of compulsory testing as well as a vigorous drug education programme. For example; positive rates in the Army, less than 1%, are low when compared with the 3-7% in civilian workplace drug testing programmes in the UK. These statistics demonstrate that drug misuse is significantly less prevalent among Army personnel than in corresponding civilian demographic groups.

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

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIOFOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat FOI