



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2018/06201

Reply to: [REDACTED]

25 June 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

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

- "1. For the last calendar year 2017 please state how many positive drugs tests were recorded following tests carried out on members of the armed forces and provide a breakdown of those positive tests by type or class of drug? How many individual people did these positive tests relate to.*
- 2. For the last calendar year 2017 please state how many positive drugs tests were recorded following tests carried out on members of (i) the army, (ii) the navy and (iii) the RAF and provide a breakdown of those positive tests by type or class of drug and the number of individual people that they relate to.*
- 3. For the 2017 figure of positive drug tests please provide a breakdown by army corps (as per the definition provided in Parliamentary Written Answer 190801). Please also provide this based on individual people rather than number of positive tests.*
- 4. For 2017 please state how many members of the armed services tested positive for anabolic steroids, how many of these were dismissed and which military corp had the highest number of these positives (please state the number as well as the corp)."*

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 Annex A to this letter. Please note that the figures provided are single Service estimates and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.

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.

The MOD conducts compulsory drug tests because substance misuse is incompatible with Service life 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-JSP835-V20-U.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425401/20131101-JSP835-V20-U.pdf)

The Army CDT Team administers the Armed Forces CDT on behalf of Defence and as such hold the collective data. Data is only held back to 2008. However, when data is reviewed over the period 2008 to May 2017, records show that the Armed Forces had conducted 1,140,884 individual tests returning 6,079 positive results. In percentage terms this equates to an annual percentage of 0.5%.

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 [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-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

Positive Compulsory Drug Test (CDT) Results 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

| <b>Positive Drug Tests</b> | <b>Individuals Tested</b> | <b>Class A</b> | <b>Class B</b> | <b>Class C</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 830*                       | 770                       | 670            | 190            | 40             |

\*Some individuals were found positive for more than one drug

Breakdown by Drug Class by Service 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

| <b>Service</b>  | <b>Class A</b> | <b>Class B</b> | <b>Class C</b> |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Royal Navy      | 60             | 10             | 10             |
| Army            | 560            | 170            | 20             |
| Royal Air Force | 50             | 10             | 10             |

CDT Results by Army Corps - 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

| <b>Army Corps</b>  | <b>Positive</b> |
|--|-----------------|
| Household Cavalry  | 10              |
| Royal Armoured Corps                                     | 40              |
| Royal Regiment of Artillery                              | 50              |
| Royal Engineers  | 80              |
| Royal Corp of Signals                                    | 30              |
| Foot Guards  | 30              |
| Royal Regiment of Scotland                               | 20              |
| Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment                       | 10              |
| Duke of Lancaster's Regiment                             | 20              |
| Royal Regiment of Fusiliers                              | -               |
| Royal Anglian Regiment                                   | 10              |
| The Yorkshire Regiment                                   | 20              |
| The Mercian Regiment                                     | 20              |
| The Royal Welsh  | 20              |
| Parachute Regiment                                       | 10              |
| The Rifles   | 30              |
| Royal Logistic Corps                                     | 60              |
| Royal Army Medical Corps                                 | 10              |
| Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers       | 40              |
| Others (incl RMP & MPGS, RAVC, Dental Corp, ARTD, etc)** | 190             |

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

Anabolic steroid use by Service personnel - 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

| <u>Royal Navy</u> | <u>Army</u> | <u>RAF</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| ~                 | 20          | 10         |

The Army Corps which had the highest number of personnel who tested positive for anabolic steroids in 2017 was the Royal Armoured Corps with fewer than 5 individuals.

10 individuals have so far been dismissed for use of steroids. We cannot give specifics about individuals especially when numbers are low and could lead to individuals being identified. However, the majority of Service personnel caught taking drugs can expect to be discharged.