



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 27 July 2018 requesting the following information:

“Under the FOI Act, could you please provide details of the number of service personnel who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Aspergers Syndrome and Attention-deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. I would like the figures broken down by sex and service. I would like figures for the last two years.”

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.

Between 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2018, there were 318 serving UK Armed Forces personnel with at least one Read code for Autism, Asperger’s Syndrome or Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) entered onto their electronic primary health care record (DMICP) (**Tables 1 and 2**).

Table 1: UK Armed Forces personnel with a Read code for Autism, Asperger’s Syndrome¹ or Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, by gender and condition, numbers²

Personnel in service between 1 July 2016 to 1 July 2018

	All Services	Male	Female
Total	318	303	15
ADHD	118	111	7
Autism ¹	202	194	8

Source: DMICP and JPA

1. Asperger’s Syndrome has been grouped with Autism, as both are conditions that appear within Autism Spectrum Disorder.

2. Personnel have been counted once per condition and only once overall, therefore the sum of all categories will not equal the overall number of personnel per condition. I.e. if personnel Read code for ADHD and Autism/Asperger’s Syndrome, they would be counted once in each category, but only once in the overall total.

Table 2: UK Armed Forces personnel with a Read code for Autism, Asperger's Syndrome¹ or Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, by service and condition, numbers²

Personnel in service between 1 July 2016 to 1 July 2018

	All Services	Naval Service	Army	RAF
Total	318	36	259	24
ADHD	118	7	101	10
Autism	202	29	159	14

Source: DMICP and JPA

1. Asperger's Syndrome has been grouped with Autism, as both are conditions that appear within Autism Spectrum Disorder.
2. Personnel have been counted once per condition and only once overall, therefore the sum of all categories will not equal the overall number of personnel per condition. I.e. if personnel Read code for ADHD and Autism/Asperger's Syndrome, they would be counted once in each category, but only once in the overall total.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

UK Armed Forces personnel comprise the total strength of the military personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence. This includes:

- All UK Regular personnel and all Gurkha personnel.
- Volunteer Reserve personnel.
- Other Personnel including the Serving Regular Reserve, Sponsored Reserve, Military Provost Guard Service, Locally Engaged Personnel and elements of the Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS).

Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) has a centralised data warehouse of coded information. It 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.

Please note that if information was entered as free text in the patient record then it is not available in the DMICP data warehouse and will not be retrieved using the search for read codes.

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:

Autism		ADHD	
E140-2	Autism	6A61	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder annual review
Eu840-1	[X]Autistic disorder	8BPT	Drug therapy ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)
Eu841	[X]Atypical autism	8BPT0	Stimulant drug therapy for ADHD
Eu845	[X]Asperger's syndrome	90I8	ADHD monitoring invitation first letter
Eu84z-1	[X]Autistic spectrum disorder	90I9	ADHD monitoring invitation second letter
		E2E00	Attention deficit without hyperactivity
		E2E01	Attention deficit with hyperactivity
		EMISNQA	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder review
		Eu900	[X]Disturbance of activity and attention
		Eu902	[X]Deficits in attention, motor control and perception
		Eu9y7	[X]Attention deficit disorder

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 22 August 2018.

The tables in this report have been scrutinised to ensure individual identities have not been revealed inadvertently. In line with JSP 200 (March 2016), all numbers less than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there is only one cell in a row or column that is less than five, the next smallest number (or numbers where there are tied values) has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot

simply be derived from totals.

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, 1st 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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

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