



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2018/08949

Reply to: [REDACTED]

1 August 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4 July 2018 requesting the following information:

“Under the FOI Act, could you provide details of personnel who have failed CDT in the Army, Royal Navy and RAF in 2017.

For the Army I would like the results broken down by regiment.

I would also like details of the drugs for which the military personnel tested positive for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017.”

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. Please note that the figures provided are single Service estimates and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics. We have interpreted your request for “details of the drugs” to be class of drug. Therefore page 2 of Annexe provides a breakdown by Service and Class of Drug.

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. A copy of 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

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 1,142,000 individual tests returning 6,080 positive results. In percentage terms this equates to an annual percentage of 0.5%.

Information relating to certain Army Regiments has been withheld under section 23(1) of FOI Act. The information withheld may include zero CDT failures, therefore no inference may be drawn on the number of CDT failures within these Regiments.

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). 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

Positive Drug Tests of Service Personnel	Individuals with positive CDT Results
830*	770

*Some individuals were found positive for more than one drug

The total number of individuals with positive CDTs in 2017 by Service

Royal Navy	70
Army	640
Royal Air Force	60

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

Army Corps	Positive
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

Breakdown by Drug Class by Service and Class of Drug

1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

Service	Class A	Class B	Class C
Royal Navy	30	10	~
Army	460	150	30
Royal Air Force	20	10	~

1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

Service	Class A	Class B	Class C
Royal Navy	60	10	~
Army	630	170	40
Royal Air Force	40	10	10

1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

Service	Class A	Class B	Class C
Royal Navy	60	10	10
Army	560	170	20
Royal Air Force	50	10	10