



Ministry  
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2018/12807  
ArmySec/03/03

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12 November 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 13 October in which you requested the following information:

*I would like to obtain information relating to the drug testing of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Can you tell me how many personnel tested positive for drugs in each of the last five calendar years?*

*If possible, can you further break down the information by providing (i) the rank of the individual, (ii) the class of drugs the individual tested positive for, and (iii) the battalion they belong to.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 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, please see below.

The table below provides the number of personnel in the Royal Regiment of Scotland who failed a Compulsory Drugs Test (CDT), broken out by Battalion, in each of the last five calendar years.

Year	Unit				
	1 SCOTS	2 SCOTS	3 SCOTS	4 SCOTS	7 SCOTS
2014	10	10	-	10	-
2015	10	10	10	10	-
2016	10	10	10	20	-
2017	10	-	-	10	-
2018	-	10	20	10	-

Notes/Caveats:

- The data has been rounded to the nearest ten to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality.
- “-” denotes zero, or rounded to zero.

Under Section 16 of the Act which requires public authorities to provide help and assistance, I can confirm that soldiers caught taking drugs will be discharged. Also with regards to the further breakdown requested by (i) rank, and (ii) class of drugs tested positive for. It has not been possible to provide this further breakdown, without exceeding the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government this is set at £600. This represents the

estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating and retrieving and extracting it.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Army Secretariat