



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 7 May in which you clarified the timeframe and definition of MOD property in relation to your previous request for:

- 1) *The quantities of drugs found at MOD properties in Colchester, Larkhill and Catterick, broken down by how much at each base and what the drugs were.*
- 2) *The number of military personnel found in possession of illegal drugs*
- 3) *The quantities of drugs found at Aldershot Garrison and Army Training Centre Pirbright; down by how much at each base and what the drugs were.*
- 4) *The number of military personnel found in possession of illegal drugs at each base*
- 5) *The quantities of drugs found at Bulford and Tidworth military bases broken down by how much at each base and what the drugs were.*
- 6) *The number of military personnel found in possession of illegal drugs at these bases." 3*

You clarified that this request was for:

- *this year so far, last year (2018) and 2017.*
- *MOD property as property which is either owned by the MOD or the government or leased and is used for work space or for living accommodation by service personnel.*

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. Some of this information is exempt from release under section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA. Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in deciding to withhold the information.

Please note that the figures provided are single service estimates and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics. Complete information on the number of people found in possession of illegal drugs at each of the requested sites is not held. Due to the

incomplete data held on a small number of cases, the answer has been consolidated as follows:

In the specified locations and years, 10 people were identified in investigations into substances identified as illegal drugs. The identified drugs involved in these cases were cannabis, cocaine, oxymetholone, tetrahydrocannabinol, testosterone, trenbolone, tetramisole and phenacetin.

The amount of identified drugs found during investigations in the specified time period is recorded as:

Colchester, Larkhill and Catterick:
Oxymetholone 5.94 grams
Cocaine 0.18 grams

Aldershot Garrison (Records show no investigations at Army Training Centre Pirbright)
Cannabis 2.09 grams
Cocaine 1.44 grams

No quantifiable amounts of identified drugs are recorded as having been found at Bulford and Tidworth.

Under Section 16 (Advice & Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that information held on investigations by the Service Police was searched to answer your request. The search found twenty investigations matching the time period and locations in your request. In the majority of cases, the amount of drugs was not recorded, or was not quantified in a measurable way, for example: 'bag', 'trace amount' and 'residue'. Similarly, the drugs found were often 'believed' to be certain drugs, but no record is held of any analysis having been completed.

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). 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,



Army Secretariat