



Ministry  
of Defence

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01 May 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 28 March 2019 requesting the following information:

“... a tally of personnel under the STD read codes:

43C3,43C3,A788,A7880,A7881,A788,A7882,A7883,A7884,A7885,A7886,A788y,A788z,AyuC  
H1A-SHHAPT,H1AX-SHHAPT,H1B-SHHAPT,H1BX-SHHAPT,H1-SHHAPT,H1X-SHHAPT,  
R109

--- within the existing breakdown provided by gender, Army/Navy/RAF and year?”

For information, the Read codes specified all relate to HIV.

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 all the information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. This is also in line with the Joint Service Publication 200 (JSP 200), in which numbers fewer than five are suppressed in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2018, **10** UK Armed Forces personnel had at least one Read code for the Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) codes requested entered into their electronic DMICP primary health care record. This information is presented by Service and year in **Table 1**. A gender breakdown has not been included as **no** female personnel had one of the requested Read codes entered into their record in the requested years. Please note personnel may no longer be serving.

**Table 1: UK Male<sup>1</sup> Armed Forces personnel<sup>2</sup> with a HIV Read code by Service<sup>3,4</sup> and year, numbers<sup>5</sup>**

1 January 2016 to 31 December 2018

	All Services	Naval Service	Army	RAF
All	10	~	5	~
2016	5	~	~	~
2017	~	~	~	0
2018	5	~	~	0

Source: DMICP and JPA

<sup>1</sup> Only Male personnel have been included as no female personnel had a Read code input into their medical record during the time period.

<sup>2</sup> Includes trained and untrained Regular and Reservist Personnel.

<sup>3</sup> Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

<sup>4</sup> Service was identified as that prior or closest to their first Read code entry in the medical record.

<sup>5</sup> Personnel were counted once per year and only once overall; thus, the sum of each year does not equal the total of all years. i.e. if personnel had a Read code for 2016 and 2017, they would be counted once in 2016 and 2017 in the table above but only once in the total for all years.

~ In line with JSP 200 on statistical disclosure, figures fewer than five have been suppressed.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it useful to note the following:

The total for each year shows the number of personnel who had a Read code for HIV entered into their medical record in that year. The total overall is the number of personnel (within the time period of 2016-2018) who had a Read code for HIV entered into their medical record between 1 Jan 2016 – 31 Dec 2018.

Personnel include all UK Armed Forces Regular and Reservist Personnel. This does not include entitled or non-entitled civilians, Foreign Service or non UK military. This response relates to all personnel who had a DMICP record and served between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2018, and is not limited to the currently serving population.

Reservist personnel have been included. However, please note the majority of Reservist personnel receive their primary medical care from the NHS. Any codes entered in an NHS record will therefore not be included in the figures presented.

It is Defence policy that Service personnel can choose to attend NHS and private sexual health clinics. Therefore, these figures may not represent all personnel who have had a medical condition associated with the codes requested within the time period.

Data are compiled by Defence Statistics Health from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) data warehouse. The DMICP programme commenced during 2007 and comprises an integrated primary Health Record (iHR) for clinical use and a pseudo-anonymised central data warehouse. Prior to this data warehouse, medical records were kept locally, at each individual medical centre. Medical data is stored in the DMICP data warehouse using Read codes. Data on Service personnel with codes entered on their medical record relating to STDs has been sourced from DMICP.

Sexual transmission is not the only route of transmission of HIV. Therefore, these figures may include personnel with non-sexually transmitted HIV.

The MOD provides a full range of medical services to promote, protect and restore the health of the UK Armed Forces to ensure that they are ready and medically fit to go where they are required in the UK and throughout the world. This includes the provision of primary healthcare in the UK and overseas to service personnel and, where appropriate, their dependants. In the patient group

MOD GPs will see the full range of medical problems that would be seen by NHS GPs in a similarly aged patient population.

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.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 2 April 2019.

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK Armed Forces personnel and is used to gather information on a person's service and gender.

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 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/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health