



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 27 September 2019 requesting the following information:

“... please provide details of all armed forces personnel who have a read code for opioid addiction. I would like figures for the last three 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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

Between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2019, **19** UK Armed Forces personnel had at least one Read code for opioid addiction entered into their medical record.

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

Personnel include all UK Armed Forces Regular and Reserve trained and untrained personnel. This response relates to all personnel who had a DMICP record and served between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2019 and is not limited to the currently serving population.

In the case of dependency on any substance, a medical category of Medically Not Deployable is appropriate whilst any treatment is undertaken. Healthcare is available from primary care, specialist mental healthcare in the Departments of Community Mental Health, and for those requiring inpatient management via the Independent Service Providers in the NHS who are contracted to provide such services by the MOD.

Whilst healthcare needs have higher priority, you will wish to note that the MOD views the misuse of drugs within the Armed Forces as incompatible with military service. Evidence that drugs have been taken (for example, through failing a Compulsory Drug Testing (CDT)) is not necessary for administrative or disciplinary action to be taken. Personnel who are subject to administrative or disciplinary action for substance misuse can expect to be removed from the Services. All Service personnel are subject to random CDT regardless of their deployment status.

Data were 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.

Medical data is stored in the DMICP data warehouse using Read codes. Data entered for opioid addiction was collected using the following Read codes:

Code	Description	Code	Description
13cM1	Opioid analgesic dependence	E240-1	Heroin dependence
8B23-1	Drug addictn therap-methadone	E240-4	Opium dependence
8B2P	Drug addiction maintenance therapy - methadone	E240-3	Morphine dependence
E240	Opioid type drug dependence	8B2N	Drug addiction detoxification therapy - methadone
E240-2	Methadone dependence	8B2M	Buprenorphine maintenance therapy
E2400	Unspecified opioid dependence	8B2Q	Drug addiction maintenance therapy - buprenorphine
E2401	Continuous opioid dependence	8B2R	Drug addiction detoxification therapy - buprenorphine
E2402	Episodic opioid dependence	8B2S	Opioid agonist substitution therapy
E2403	Opioid dependence in remission	8BE0	Reinduction to methadone maintenance therapy
E240z	Opioid drug dependence NOS	8BE1	Reinduction to buprenorphine maintenance therapy
E248	Combined opioid with other drug dependence	Eu114	Men & behav dis due opioid: withdrawal state with delirium
E2480	Combined opioid with other drug dependence, unspecified	Eu11	[X]Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids
E2481	Combined opioid with other drug dependence, continuous	Eu11z	[X]Ment & behav dis due use opioids: unsp ment & behav dis
E2482	Combined opioid with other drug dependence, episodic	Eu110	[X]Mental & behav dis due to use opioids: acute intoxication
E2483	Combined opioid with other drug dependence in remission	Eu111	[X]Mental and behav dis due to use of opioids: harmful use
E248z	Combined opioid with other drug dependence NOS	Eu115	[X]Mental & behav dis due to use opioids: psychotic disorder
Eu112-1	[X]Drug addiction - opioids	Eu116	[X]Mental and behav dis due to use opioids: amnesic syndrome
Eu112-2	[X]Heroin addiction	Eu117	[X]Men & beh dis due opioids: resid & late-onset psychot dis
Eu112	[X]Mental and behav dis due to use opioids: dependence syndr	Eu11y	[X]Men & behav dis due to use opioids: oth men & behav dis
Eu113	[X]Mental and behav dis due to use opioids: withdrawal state	Eu11z	[X]Ment & behav dis due use opioids: unsp ment & behav dis
Eu113-1	[X]Cold turkey, opiate withdrawal		

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 30 September 2019.

Please note, any data entered as free text only in patients' medical record will not be included in the figures presented as this information is not available in the data warehouse.

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/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Statistics Health