



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence
Oak 0 West (#6028)
Abbey Wood North
Bristol BS34 8JH
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)30679 84423
E-mail: Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 30 April 2020 requesting the following information:

"In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide data on the percentage of men and women in the Armed forces who smoke, by service and gender, and aggregated, for each of the years 2011 to the latest available?"

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.

As per your request, the information has been presented in the same format as FOI 09-08-2013-102256-005, with the addition of aggregated Tri-service figures.

Table 1 presents the percentages of UK armed forces personnel defined as a smoker, by service and gender.

Table 1: UK armed forces personnel¹ defined as a smoker by service and gender, percentages
1 April 2011 to 1 April 2020

Year ²	All			Naval Service ³			Army			RAF		
	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
1 Apr 11	27%	27%	23%	23%	23%	23%	32%	32%	25%	18%	18%	19%
1 Apr 12	27%	27%	21%	23%	23%	21%	32%	33%	24%	18%	17%	18%
1 Apr 13	26%	27%	20%	22%	22%	20%	31%	32%	23%	17%	17%	17%
1 Apr 14	25%	25%	19%	20%	21%	18%	29%	30%	21%	16%	16%	15%
1 Apr 15	23%	24%	18%	19%	19%	17%	28%	29%	20%	14%	14%	14%
1 Apr 16	22%	22%	16%	18%	18%	16%	27%	27%	18%	13%	13%	13%
1 Apr 17	20%	21%	15%	17%	17%	14%	25%	26%	17%	12%	12%	11%
1 Apr 18	20%	20%	14%	16%	16%	13%	24%	25%	16%	11%	11%	10%
1 Apr 19	19%	19%	13%	15%	16%	12%	23%	24%	15%	10%	11%	9%
1 Apr 20	18%	19%	12%	15%	15%	11%	23%	23%	15%	10%	11%	8%

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Full time armed forces trained (Naval Service and RAF)/trade trained (Army) and serving against requirement.

² A snapshot of information recorded on the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) as at 1st April each year.

³ Includes Royal Marines and Royal Navy.

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

The military populations presented are full-time serving UK armed forces personnel as at 1 April each year. Personnel include regular UK armed forces personnel trained (Naval Service and RAF)/trade trained (Army) and serving against requirement.

Service personnel who smoke are advised by healthcare professionals to stop smoking whenever the opportunity arises. Smokers who want to stop should in the first instance be referred to the local military or NHS stop smoking service. Patients who are not ready to stop smoking are offered advice and encouraged to seek support in the future.

The smoking status information provided in this FOI presents a snapshot of information recorded on the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) for UK armed forces personnel, as at 1 April each year. For each time point, the individuals' last recorded smoking status prior to 1 April that year was used to identify their smoking status.

DMICP has a centralised data warehouse of Read coded information. It is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers from which searches can be run.

The following codes were used to identify personnel who were smokers as at 1 April each year:

- 1372: Trivial smoker - < 1 cig /day
- 1373: Light smoker - 1-9 cigs/day
- 1374: Moderate smoker - 10-19 cigs/d
- 1375: Heavy smoker - 20-39 cigs/day
- 1376: Very heavy smoker - 40+cigs/d
- 137-1: Smoker - amount smoked
- 1372-1: Occasional smoker
- 137b: Ready to stop smoking
- 137c: Keeps trying to stop smoking
- 137C: Keeps trying to stop smoking
- 137d: Not interested in stopping smoking
- 137D:Not interested in stopping smoking
- 137G: Trying to give up smoking
- 137h: Pipe smoker
- 137H: Pipe smoker
- 137J: Cigar smoker
- 137M: Rolls own cigarettes
- 137m: Rolls own cigarettes
- 137P: Cigarette smoker
- 137P-1: Smoker
- 137Q: Smoking started
- 137Q-1: Smoking restarted
- 137R: Current smoker
- 137V: Smoking reduced
- 137X: Cigarette consumption
- 137Y: Cigar consumption
- 137Z: Tobacco consumption NOS
- EGTON1025: Current Smoker NOS
- EMISQC03: Carbon monoxide validation confirms smoker

Please note that DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 13 May 2020.

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

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 Statistics Health