



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
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14 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email from 14 November 2020 requesting the following information:

“I was wondering how many personnel serving in the Armed Forces have an epi-pen, and if these could be broken down into Branch and Rank.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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.

Please note that EpiPen is a brand of epinephrine autoinjector, therefore to give the most complete picture of this type of prescription, the information in this response includes **all** epinephrine autoinjectors. If you require **only** prescriptions for EpiPens, please let us know.

As at 1 October 2020, **155** UK armed forces personnel in service had a current prescription for an epinephrine autoinjector (**Table 1**). An epinephrine autoinjector prescription was considered current if it was made within the previous 18 months.

**Table 1: UK armed forces personnel<sup>1</sup> with a current<sup>2</sup> EpiPen prescription by service and rank, numbers**

As at 1 October 2020

	All	Officer	Other Ranks
<b>All</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>130</b>
Royal Navy <sup>3</sup>	26	6	20
Army	89	11	78
RAF	40	8	32

Source: DMICP and JPA

<sup>1</sup> Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

<sup>2</sup> An epinephrine autoinjector prescription was considered current if it was made within the previous 18 months.

<sup>3</sup> Royal Navy includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel.

**Table 2** presents the number of UK armed forces personnel with a current prescription for an epinephrine autoinjector by NATO rank. In order to provide as much information as possible, whilst preventing the disclosure of personally identifiable information<sup>1</sup> some ranks have been grouped.

**Table 2: UK armed forces personnel<sup>1</sup> with a current<sup>2</sup> EpiPen prescription by NATO rank<sup>3</sup>, numbers**

<sup>1</sup> As governed by the Data Protection Act 1998, Government Statistical Service Code of Practice, and JSP 200 (v1.2 March 2020) (MOD guidance on providing statistics).

As at 1 October 2020

	<b>All</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>Officer</b>	<b>25</b>
OF-10 to OF-6	0
OF-5 & OF-4	11
OF-3	8
OF-2 & OF-1	6
<b>Other Ranks</b>	<b>130</b>
OR-9 & OR-8	15
OR-7	10
OR-6 & OR-5	26
OR-4	30
OR-3	15
OR-2	34
OR-1	0

Source: DMICP and JPA

<sup>1</sup> Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

<sup>2</sup> An epinephrine autoinjector prescription was considered current if it was made within the previous 18 months.

<sup>3</sup> The UK armed forces equivalents of NATO ranks, by service, can be found within section 16 (Advice and Assistance) below.

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

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 were in service as at 1 October 2020.

Reservist personnel were included. However, please note that the majority of reservist personnel receive their primary medical care from the NHS. Any prescriptions entered in an NHS record will therefore not be included in the figures presented for the number of personnel with a prescription entered into their MOD medical record.

Information on epinephrine autoinjector prescriptions was derived from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP). 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 terms were used to search within the DMICP data warehouse for epinephrine autoinjector prescriptions:

- EpiPen
- EpiPen Junior
- Jext
- Emerade
- Anapen

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 25 November 2020.

Advice from pharmacist Subject Matter Experts is that epinephrine autoinjectors expire within approximately 18 months of issue from a pharmacy. Prescriptions made prior to 1 April 2019 (18 months from 1 October 2020) therefore not considered current and were not included in the information provided.

Please note, it is not possible to determine from the centrally held database whether the epinephrine autoinjectors have been used.

Information by NATO rank was provided. The UK armed forces equivalents of these ranks, by service, are as follows:

#### Officers

	<b>Royal Navy</b>	<b>Royal Marines</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>Royal Air Force</b>
OF-10	Admiral of the Fleet	-	Field Marshal	Marshal of the Royal Air Force
OF-9	Admiral	General	General	Air Chief Marshal
OF-8	Vice Admiral	Lieutenant General	Lieutenant General	Air Marshal
OF-7	Rear Admiral	Major General	Major General	Air Vice-Marshal
OF-6	Commodore	Brigadier	Brigadier	Air Commodore
OF-5	Captain	Colonel	Colonel	Group Captain
OF-4	Commander	Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel	Wing Commander
OF-3	Lieutenant Commander	Major	Major	Squadron Leader
OF-2	Lieutenant	Captain	Captain	Flight Lieutenant
OF-1	Sub Lieutenant/ Midshipman	Lieutenant	Lieutenant/Second Lieutenant	Flying Officer

#### Other ranks

	<b>Royal Navy</b>	<b>Royal Marines</b>	<b>Army</b>	<b>Royal Air Force</b>
OR-9	Warrant Officer	Warrant Officer 1	Warrant Officer 1	Warrant Officer
OR-8	Warrant Officer 2	Warrant Officer 2	Warrant Officer 2	-
OR-7	Chief Petty Officer	Colour Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	Flight Sergeant
OR-5/6	Petty Officer	Sergeant	Sergeant	Sergeant
OR-4	Leading Rate	Corporal	Corporal	Corporal
OR-3	-	Lance Corporal	Lance Corporal	Lance Corporal
OR-2	Able Rate	Marine	Private	(Senior/Leading) Aircraftman
OR-1	-	-	-	-

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) is the system used by the UK armed forces to deal with matters of pay, leave and other personnel administrative tasks. It 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 rank as at 1 October 2020.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications in the UK armed forces and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: [Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk).

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](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