



Ministry  
of Defence

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27 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 3 August 2021 in which you requested the following information:

- 1. The number of soldiers who failed a compulsory drug test, by regiment please, in 2020/21.*
- 2. The substances and the number of occasions on which they were detected by compulsory drug tests in 20/21.*
- 3. The number of compulsory drug tests carried on soldiers for both 2019/20 and 2020/21 please.*
- 4. The number of soldiers who were discharged in 20/21 having failed a compulsory drug test.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held and is shown below and at Annex A. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at Sections 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. 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.

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](mailto: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 Policy & Secretariat

Annex A:

Please note that the figures provided are single Service estimates based on data which is not gathered for statistical purposes or subject to the same level of scrutiny as official statistics produced by Defence Statistics. The figures provided may therefore be subject to data quality issues affecting their accuracy.

Numbers under five have been replaced with a ~ as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity.

1. The number of soldiers who failed a compulsory drug test, by regiment, in 2020/21.

<b>Army Corps</b>	<b>Positive</b>
Royal Armoured Corps	31
Royal Regiment of Artillery	26
Royal Engineers	27
Royal Corp of Signals	5
Foot Guards	19
Royal Regiment of Scotland	5
Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	7
Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	~
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	10
Royal Anglian Regiment	16
The Yorkshire Regiment	6
The Mercian Regiment	5
The Royal Welsh	14
Parachute Regiment	15
The Rifles	5
Royal Logistic Corps	43
Royal Army Medical Corps	~
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	15
Other*	21

\*Other includes Royal Military Police / Military Provost Guard Service / Royal Army Veterinary Corps

2. The substances and the number of occasions on which they were detected by compulsory drug tests in 2020/21.

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Benzodiazepine	~	
Cannabis	67	
Cocaine	214	
Ecstasy	12	
Ketamine	8	
Steroid	6	

3. The number of compulsory drug tests carried on soldiers for both 2019/20 and 2020/21.

<b>Period</b>	<b>Compulsory Drug Tests Conducted</b>
FY 2019/20	79,939
FY 2020/21	9,300

4. The number of soldiers who were discharged in 2020/21 having failed a compulsory drug test was 337. You may wish to note that the discharges data and positive test data have been collated separately and relate to two different populations; those discharged in a particular year and those who tested positive in a particular year. The discharge process is not instantaneous on providing a sample.