



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 26 July 2021 requesting the following information:

"Please answer the following questions for the 2020 calendar year.

1. How many armed forces personnel were prescribed Viagra, or similar drugs, during the year and could the figures be broken down by the services and by officers and non-officer ranks.
2. How many armed forces personnel were prescribed antidepressants, during the year and could the figures be broken down by the services and by officers and non-officer ranks."

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 January 2020 and 31 December 2020, **881** UK armed forces personnel had a prescription for Viagra or a similar drug entered into their medical record. **Table 1** presents this information by service and officer/rank status.

Table 1: UK armed forces personnel¹ prescribed Viagra or similar drugs by service and officer/rank status, numbers

1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	All	Officer	Rank
All	881	213	668
Royal Navy²	258	56	202
Army	418	98	320
RAF	205	59	146

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

² Royal Navy includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel.

Between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020, **6,838** UK armed forces personnel had a prescription for an antidepressant drug entered into their medical record. **Table 2** presents this information by service and officer/rank status.

Table 2: UK armed forces personnel¹ prescribed antidepressants by service and officer/rank status, numbers

1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	All ²	Officer	Rank
All	6,838	912	5,928
Royal Navy³	1,403	228	1,176
Army	3,783	461	3,323
RAF	1,652	223	1,429

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

² Personnel were counted once per rank but only once in the total for the year. E.g. if personnel had a prescription whilst they were a rank and another whilst they were an officer, they were counted once in Rank and once in Officer but only once in the total. Therefore, the sum of Officer and Rank does not equal the total number of personnel prescribed antidepressants in the year.

³ Royal Navy includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel.

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 an electronic medical record and served between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020 and is not limited to the currently serving population.

Reservist personnel have been included. However, please note that the majority of Reservist personnel are not entitled to MOD medical care, and instead receive their primary medical care from the NHS. Any codes entered in an NHS record were therefore not included in the figures presented for the number of personnel with a Read code entered into their MOD medical record.

It is not possible to identify from centrally held coded information the condition for which the drugs were prescribed. Viagra can be prescribed for erectile dysfunction, but other similar drugs can be prescribed for benign prostatic hyperplasia or for pulmonary hypertension by a specialist. Additionally, some medications used to treat depression are used to treat other conditions. Amitriptyline, nortriptyline and duloxetine are used much more frequently in the management of neuropathic pain than in depression. Furthermore, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) such as fluoxetine, paroxetine, citalopram, escitalopram and sertraline can be used to treat other medical conditions. Therefore, the numbers provided will contain prescriptions for medical conditions other than erectile dysfunction and depression. To determine the reason for the prescriptions would require a clinician to manually review the medical records of personnel prescribed these drugs which would exceed the cost limit associated with FOI requests.

Information 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 drug names and brands were used to identify prescriptions for Viagra and similar drugs in DMICP:

Adcirca	Levitra	Talmanco
Alprostadil	Muse	Vardenafil
Avanafil	Nipatra	Viagra
Caverject	Phentolamine And Aviptadil	Viridal
Caverject Dual Chamber	Revatio	Viridal Duo
Cialis	Sildenafil Citrate	Vitaros
Granpidam	Spedra	Vizarsin
Invicorp	Tadalafil	

The following drug names and brands were used to identify prescriptions for antidepressants in DMICP:

Agomelatine	Edronax	Optimax	Tonpular XL
Allegron	Efexor	Optimax Wv	Tranlycypromine
Alventa XL	Efexor XL	Oxactin	Trazodone Hydrochloride
Amitriptyline Hydrochloride	Escitalopram	Pacitron	Trimipramine
Amitriptyline Sr	Faverin	Paroxetine Hydrochloride	Triptafen
Amitriptyline with Perphenazine	Feliciun	Paxoran	Triaxat XL
Amoxapine	Feprapax	Phenelzine	Tryptophan
Amphero XL	Fluoxetine Hydrochloride	Politid XL	Valdoxan
Aremis	Fluvoxamine Maleate	Prepadine	Vaxalin
Asendin	Gamanil	Prothiaden	Venaxx XL
Besitran	Imipramine	Protriptyline	Vencarm
Bolvidon	Imipramine Hydrochloride	Protriptyline Hydrochloride	Venlablue XL
Bonilux XL	Isocarboxazid	Prozac	Venladex XL
Brintellix	Lofepamine	Prozep	Venlafaxine
Cipralext	Lomont	Prozit	Venlafaxine Hydrochloride
Cipramil	L-Tryptophan	Ranfaxine XL	Venlalic XL
Citalopram Hydrobromide	Ludiomil	Ranflutin	Venlaneo
Citalopram Hydrochloride	Lustral	Reboxetine	Venlasov XL
Clomipramine Hydrochloride	Majoven XL	Rodamel XL	Vensir XL
Concordin	Manerix	Seroxat	Venzip XL
Cymbalta	Mentaven XL	Seroxat Cr	Vexarin
Defanyl	Mianserin Hydrochloride	Sertraline Hydrochloride	Viepax
Depefex XL	Mirtazapine	Serzone	Viepax XL
Dosulepin Hydrochloride	Moclobemide	Sinepin	Vivactil
Dothapax 25/75	Molipaxin	Sinequan	Vortioxetine
Doxepin	Nardil	Sunveniz XL	Winfex XL
Doxepin XL	Nefazodone Hydrochloride	Tardcaps XL	Yentreve
Duciltia	Nortriptyline	Thaden	Zispin
Duloxetine	Olena	Tifaxin XL	Zispin Soltab

Yentreve (Duloxetine) 20mg and 40mg capsules were not included in the search as they are not used to treat depression.

Please note that DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 29 July 2021.

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 officer/rank status as at the date of prescription.

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