



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health  
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Ref: **FOI 2021/13059**

18 November 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 27 October 2021 requesting the following information:

“Please can you tell me how many soldiers have been prescribed larium each year, including this year, last year and 2019.”

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.

**Table 1** presents the number of UK armed forces Army personnel<sup>1</sup>, with a prescription for Mefloquine (Lariam) in their electronic medical record between 1 January 2019 and 30 September 2021.

**Table 1: UK armed forces Army personnel<sup>1</sup> who have been prescribed Mefloquine (Lariam) since 2019, numbers<sup>2</sup>**

1 January 2019 to 30 September 2021

Year	n
<b>ALL</b>	<b>35</b>
2019	21
2020	10
2021	5

Source DMICP and JPA

<sup>1</sup>Includes UK Army officers and other ranks, regular and reserve personnel, trained and untrained.

<sup>2</sup>Personnel may have been prescribed drugs in multiple years and will be counted in each year they were prescribed but only once in the overall total. Therefore, the sum of each year does not equal the total.

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

Information has been 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.

Please note that data is related to the prescription of the drug, it does not ensure that the patient went on to take the drug.

Data on prescriptions for antimalarial drugs used in this response were derived from the integrated primary health record (iHR) within the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) data warehouse. Searches in DMICP for the following antimalarial drug names were conducted:

- “Lariam”
- “Mefloquine Hydrochloride”

Please note that if any drug has been entered as free text only in a patients' medical record it will not be included in the figures presented as this information is not available in the data warehouse, therefore numbers should be treated as a minimum.

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 at the point of prescription.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 11 October 2021.

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/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics Health