



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health
Ministry of Defence
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Ref: **FOI 2021/14128**

13 December 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 18 November 2021 requesting the following information:

“Following on from this, please can you tell me how many members of the RAF and the navy have also been given Lariam 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.

Please note, section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. This is also in line with the Joint Service Publication 200 (JSP 200), in which numbers fewer than five are suppressed in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. 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.

Between 1 January 2019 and 30 September 2021, **fewer than five** UK armed forces Royal Navy and RAF personnel were prescribed Mefloquine (Lariam). These prescriptions occurred in 2020 and 2021.

In line with JSP 200, numbers fewer than five have been suppressed to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified dependent on the risk of disclosure. Therefore, no further breakdowns by year and service have been provided.

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

Personnel include all trained and untrained, regular and reservist, UK armed forces Royal Navy and RAF personnel who had a DMICP record and served between 1 January 2019 and 30 September 2021. This is not limited to the currently serving population. Royal Navy includes Royal Marines and Royal Navy personnel.

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 drug names were conducted:

- "Lariam"
- "Mefloquine Hydrochloride"

Please note that if a prescription 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). 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,

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