



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 11 January 2022 requesting the following information:

“The number of UK armed forces personnel who have had a diagnostic read code entered into their electronic health record for a sexually transmitted infection between January 2017 and December 2021 (to date), broken down by year and Service.”

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 2017 and 31 December 2021, **8,347** UK armed forces personnel had at least one Read code for a sexually transmitted infection (STI) entered onto their electronic medical record. **Table 1** presents this information by year and service.

**Table 1: UK armed forces personnel<sup>1</sup> with a sexually transmitted infection by service and year, numbers<sup>2</sup>**

1 January 2017 to 31 December 2021

	All	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>All</b>	<b>8,347</b>	<b>2,281</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>1,709</b>
<b>Royal Navy<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1,877</b>	470	471	517	392	382
<b>Army</b>	<b>5,029</b>	1,444	1,343	1,356	981	1,018
<b>RAF</b>	<b>1,454</b>	368	383	400	323	309

Source: DMICP and JPA

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

<sup>2</sup> Personnel were counted once per service but only once in the total. E.g., if someone had a Read code entered while in the Army and another Read code entered while in the RAF, they were counted once in Army and once in RAF but only once in the total. The same applies to year. Therefore, the totals may not equal the sum of their counterparts.

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

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

Personnel include all UK armed forces regular and reservist, trained and untrained personnel. This does not include entitled or non-entitled civilians, foreign service or non-UK military. This response relates to all personnel who had a DMICP record and served between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021 and is not limited to the currently serving population.

Reservist personnel have been included. However, please note that the majority of reservist personnel receive their primary medical care from the NHS. Any personnel who were seen only by the NHS were not included in the number of personnel with a Read code entered into their military medical record.

It is defence policy that service personnel can choose to attend NHS and private sexual health clinics. Therefore, the presented figures may not represent all personnel who have had an STI within the time period.

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.

Please see **Annex A** for a list of the Read codes that have been searched for STIs. The conditions for inclusion of STI Read codes were identified from the Sexual Health and HIV Activity Property Type (SHHAPT) coding. This is the way in which Public Health England have directed that sexual health and HIV activity be recorded both within sexual health clinics and within Defence Primary Healthcare.

For some of the conditions searched for, sexual transmission is not the only route of transmission, therefore these figures may overestimate the number of personnel with an STI.

Please note that if information was entered as free text in the patient record then it is not available in the DMICP data warehouse and was not retrieved using the search for Read codes. DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 13 January 2022.

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.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to statistics 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 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