



Ministry  
of Defence

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FOI2022/07220  
[REDACTED]

12 July 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 13 June 2022 requesting the following information:

“Please could you provide current information for the number of service personnel who have Autism (including Asperger's) and separately the number of personnel who have ADHD. For those with ADHD please also break down the numbers to show: those not on related medication, Drug Therapy and lastly Stimulant Drug Therapy. If you can't provide the current live data please can you provide the latest data you have and note the period it covers.

If you could break down the totals by Army, Navy, Air Force that would be helpful. Please let me know if you need any further information.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. In line with JSP200 Statistics Disclosure Guidance, numbers fewer than five are suppressed 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.

As at 1 May 2022:

1. **378** currently serving UK armed forces personnel had at least one Read code for Autism entered into their electronic medical record. Of which:
  - **250** were in the Army,
  - **40** were in the RAF,
  - **88** were in the Royal Navy.
2. **1,503** currently serving UK armed forces personnel had at least one Read code for ADHD entered into their electronic medical record. A breakdown by service and medication type is shown in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Currently serving UK armed forces personnel<sup>1</sup> with an ADHD Read code and prescriptions for ADHD medication by service and medication type<sup>2</sup>, numbers<sup>3</sup>**

As at 1 May 2022

	Number with an ADHD Read code	Number with no related medication	Number with a prescription for ADHD medication	
			Stimulant	Non-stimulant
<b>All</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Royal Navy<sup>4</sup></b>	198	166	32	~
<b>Army</b>	1,214	1,116	96	11
<b>RAF</b>	91	63	28	~

Source: DMICP and JPA

<sup>1</sup> UK armed forces includes regular and reservist, trained and untrained personnel.

<sup>2</sup> Personnel were counted once per type of medication but only once in the total therefore totals may not equal the sum of their parts. E.g. if someone had been prescribed both stimulant and non-stimulant medication, they were counted once in stimulant and once in non-stimulant but only once in the total.

<sup>3</sup> In line with JSP 200, the suppression methodology has been applied to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified dependent on the risk of disclosure. Numbers fewer than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'. Where there was only one cell in a column that was fewer than five, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals

<sup>4</sup> Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel

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

The figures provided in this response are for all UK armed forces trained and untrained, regular and reservist personnel in service as at 1 May 2022. This does not include entitled or non-entitled civilians.

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 only seen by the NHS regarding these conditions and have not informed the MOD were not included in the figures presented for the number of personnel with a Read code entered into their military medical record.

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.

It is not possible to determine the reason for prescription from centrally held data therefore the numbers provided may contain prescriptions for medical conditions other than ADHD. 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.

Please note, it is not possible to determine from the centrally held database whether the medicine was taken as prescribed.

The following Read Codes were used to identify personnel with Autism:

Read code	Description
E140-2	Autism
Eu840-1	[X]Autistic disorder
Eu841	[X]Atypical autism
Eu845	[X]Asperger's syndrome
Eu84z-1	[X]Autistic spectrum disorder

The following Read Codes were used to identify personnel with ADHD:

Read code	Description
6A61	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder annual review
8BPT	Drug therapy ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)
8BPT0	Stimulant drug therapy for ADHD

8BPT1	Non-stimulant drug therapy for ADHD
9Ngp	On drug ther ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)
9Ngp0	On stim drug ther ADHD (attention def hyperactivity disorder)
9Ngp1	On non-stimulant drug therapy for ADHD
9OI8	ADHD monitoring invitation first letter
9OI9	ADHD monitoring invitation second letter
9OIA	ADHD monitoring invitation third letter
E2E00	Attention deficit without hyperactivity
E2E01	Attention deficit with hyperactivity
Eu900	[X]Disturbance of activity and attention
Eu900-1	[X]Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
Eu902	[X]Deficits in attention, motor control and perception
Eu9y7	[X]Attention deficit disorder
EMISNQAT45	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder review

The following drugs were used to identify individuals prescribed medication that could be used to treat ADHD:

Drug name	Form	Strength	Type
Amfexa	Tablets	5mg, 10mg	Stimulant
Atomoxetine	Capsules	10mg, 18mg, 25mg, 40mg, 60mg, 80mg, 100mg	Non-stimulant
Atomoxetine	Oral solution	4mg / ml, 25mg / 5ml	Non-stimulant
Concerta	M/R tablets	27mg	Stimulant
Concerta XI	M/R tablets	18mg, 27mg, 36mg, 54mg	Stimulant
Delmosart	M/R tablets	27mg, 36mg	Stimulant
Dexamfetamine	Tablets	5mg, 10mg, 20mg	Stimulant
Dexedrine	Tablets	5mg	Stimulant
Elvanse	Capsules	20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 50mg, 60mg, 70mg	Stimulant
Elvanse Adult	Capsules	30mg	Stimulant
Equasym XI	M/R capsules	10mg, 20mg, 30mg	Stimulant
Guanfacine	M/R tablets	1mg, 2mg, 3mg, 4mg	Non-stimulant
Intuniv	M/R tablets	1mg, 2mg, 3mg, 4mg	Non-stimulant
Lisdexamfetamine	Capsules	20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 50mg, 60mg, 70mg	Stimulant
Matoride XI	M/R tablets	18mg, 36mg, 54mg	Stimulant
Medikinet	Tablets	5mg, 10mg, 20mg	Stimulant
Medikinet XI	M/R capsules	5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 50mg, 60mg	Stimulant
Methylphenidate Hydrochloride	M/R capsules	5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 50mg, 60mg	Stimulant
Methylphenidate Hydrochloride	M/R tablets	18mg, 20mg, 27mg, 36mg, 54mg	Stimulant
Methylphenidate Hydrochloride	Oral solution	5mg / 5ml	Stimulant
Methylphenidate Hydrochloride	Tablets	5mg, 10mg, 20mg	Stimulant
Ritalin	Tablets	10mg	Stimulant
Strattera	Capsules	10mg, 18mg, 25mg, 40mg, 60mg	Non-stimulant
Strattera	Oral solution	4mg / ml	Non-stimulant
Xaggitin XI	M/R tablets	18mg, 27mg, 36mg, 54mg	Stimulant
Xenidate XI	M/R tablets	18mg, 27mg, 36mg, 54mg	Stimulant

Only information that is Read coded is available for electronic searches. To identify text or scanned information would require an individual review of each patient record. DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change.

Figures for Autism and ADHD were based on Read codes recorded on DMICP as at 16 June 2022, and figures for ADHD medication were based on prescriptions recorded on DMICP as at 24 June 2022.

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) is the most accurate source of demographic information for UK Armed Forces personnel and was used to gather information on when an individual was serving.

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](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