



Ministry
of Defence

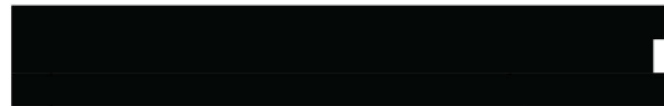
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FOI 2022/06618

27 June 2022



Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your emails from 30 May 2022 requesting the following information for each service:

“Please inform me of cases of the following:

Myocarditis
Pericarditis
Arterial fibrillation
Deep vein thrombosis
Tachycardia
Irregular arrhythmias

In the following years 2017, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.”

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. Some of the information falls within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (personnel data) of the FOI Act 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 have been 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.

Between 1 January 2017 and 31 May 2022, **2,361** personnel had at least one Read code for a cardiac health condition entered into their electronic medical record while serving in the UK armed forces. Breakdowns by year and condition for Royal Navy, Army, and RAF personnel are shown in **Tables 1, 2 and 3** respectively. Please note that personnel were counted once per condition, year and service, and once overall; therefore the numbers in the tables do not sum to the overall total. The figures show that a read code was entered in a particular year; this may be for an ongoing condition or the onset of a new condition. This does not show the number of ‘new cases’ diagnosed over a particular time period.

Table 1: UK armed forces Royal Navy personnel^{1,2} with a cardiac health condition Read code by condition and calendar year, numbers³
1 January 2017 to 31 May 2022

	All	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 ⁴
All	465	134	142	142	143	173	108
Atrial Fibrillation	120	45	42	50	49	63	40
Deep Vein Thrombosis	91	31	31	32	30	37	19
Cardiac arrhythmias	40	7	11	12	6	7	7
Myocarditis	23	7	8	7	5	7	5
Pericarditis	48	7	13	11	11	15	12
Tachycardia	171	41	42	38	45	47	30

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

² Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel.

³ Personnel were counted once per condition and year and once overall; thus, the sum of each condition does not equal the total personnel with a Read code for that condition. This applies to the overall totals and the subtotals for each condition and year. E.g. if someone had Read codes for Myocarditis and Tachycardia they would be counted once in Myocarditis and once in Tachycardia but only once in the total.

⁴ Data from 1 January 2022 to 31 May 2022.

Table 2: UK armed forces Army personnel¹ with a cardiac health condition Read code by condition and calendar year, numbers²
1 January 2017 to 31 May 2022

	All	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 ³
All	1,324	397	377	389	360	407	269
Atrial Fibrillation	299	115	121	130	124	113	71
Deep Vein Thrombosis	290	103	77	84	80	93	60
Cardiac arrhythmias	114	36	24	34	19	22	19
Myocarditis	71	13	18	20	19	32	26
Pericarditis	203	52	51	44	40	48	34
Tachycardia	417	102	101	90	88	105	65

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

² Personnel were counted once per condition and year and once overall; thus, the sum of each condition does not equal the total personnel with a Read code for that condition. This applies to the overall totals and the subtotals for each condition and year. E.g. if someone had Read codes for Myocarditis and Tachycardia they would be counted once in Myocarditis and once in Tachycardia but only once in the total.

³ Data from 1 January 2022 to 31 May 2022.

Table 3: UK armed forces RAF personnel¹ with a cardiac health condition Read code by condition and calendar year, numbers^{2,3}
1 January 2017 to 31 May 2022

	All	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 ⁴
All	574	179	169	173	179	182	140
Atrial Fibrillation	150	69	69	66	74	63	55
Deep Vein Thrombosis	108	31	32	32	32	44	27
Cardiac arrhythmias	84	25	19	16	9	16	7
Myocarditis	24	~	5	8	8	8	8
Pericarditis	49	8	13	12	9	9	11
Tachycardia	183	47	41	43	47	45	35

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

² 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 '~'.

³ Personnel were counted once per condition and year and once overall; thus, the sum of each condition does not equal the total personnel with a Read code for that condition. This applies to the overall totals and the subtotals for each condition and year. E.g. if someone had Read codes for Myocarditis and Tachycardia they would be counted once in Myocarditis and once in Tachycardia but only once in the total.

⁴ Data from 1 January 2022 to 31 May 2022.

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

The figures provided in this response are for all UK armed forces regular and reservist 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 May 2022, and is not limited to the currently serving population.

Reservist personnel have been included. However, please note that most reservist personnel receive their primary medical care from the NHS. Any personnel who were only seen by the NHS regarding cardiac health conditions and have not informed the MOD are therefore not included in these figures.

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 cardiac health conditions.

Please note that figures presented on some conditions will be a minimum; this is because their diagnoses are made in secondary care (NHS or private hospitals). A hospital may then advise a military GP of a diagnosis in the form of a letter. A military GP can record this information in a number of ways: a paper letter may be filed in a paper medical record, a letter may be scanned into the electronic patient record (in a pdf format) or the GP may enter Read codes into the electronic patient record which can be searched for electronically. Defence Statistics Health are only able to identify conditions when a Read code has been entered into the electronic patient record.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 20 June 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 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