



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email from 18 May 2022 requesting the following information:

"I am writing to request information on the number of aircrew within the military who require access to specific dietary requirements.

1. How many individuals employed within the RAF/Army/Navy have the JMES Limitation "E3 - 1602 Access to a specialist diet"
2. Of those, how many are aircrew?
3. Of those, what is the breakdown of flying streams (Fast Jet/Rotary/Multi Engine)?
4. How many RAF aircrew hold a Deployability Standard of "Medically Limited Deployable"?
5. Of those, what is the breakdown of flying streams (Fast Jet/Rotary/Multi Engine)?
6. How many RAF aircrew are diagnosed as coeliac?
7. How many RAF aircrew have a diagnosed food allergy?"

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 all the information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption 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 deciding to withhold the information.

Question 1, 2 and 3

As at 1 April 2022, **12** UK armed forces personnel were graded E3 (Restricted employment outside UK due to medical support or environmental requirements) and had the Med Lim of '1602: Access to a specialist diet'. Of these, **fewer than 5** were aircrew. Due to the small

number of aircrew, and in line with JSP200, a further breakdown by flying stream has not been provided for these personnel (Q3).

Question 4 and 5

As at 1 April 2022, **292** RAF aircrew personnel held a medical deployment standard of Medically Limited Deployable (MLD). The flying stream is broken down in Table 1:

Table 1: UK RAF aircrew personnel medically limited deployable (MLD) by flying stream
1 April 2022

Flying Stream	n
Fast Jet	58
Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance	78
Multi Engine	74
Rotary Wing	72
Unspecified ¹	10

Source: DMCIP and JPA

¹ Unspecified includes those with an unspecified flying stream and untrained personnel whose specialisation has not yet been determined.

Questions 6 and 7

Of the UK RAF aircrew personnel serving at 1 April 2022:

- **Nine** had a Read code for Coeliac disease entered into their electronic medical record as at 1 June 2022.
- **12** had a Read code for a food allergy entered into their electronic medical record as at 1 June 2022.

Please note that personnel can be counted in both categories if they have a Read code for both coeliac disease and a food allergy, therefore totals cannot be summed.

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 RAF aircrew, trained and untrained, regular and reservist personnel in service as at 1 April 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 this condition 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.

The Joint Medical Employment Standard (JMES) is awarded by medical staff in order to inform commanders and career managers of the deployability and employability of Service Personnel. It describes the Deployability, functional and geographical employability and specific medical limitations.

- Service personnel with a Medical Deployment Standard (MDS) of Medically Limited Deployable (MLD) are medically fit for duty with minor employment limitations. MLD personnel may have a medical condition or functional limitation that prevents the meeting of all Medically Fully Deployable (MFD) requirements.
- The Medical Employment Standard (MES), relates to an individual's employment in their branch/trade duties and is expressed as numerical degrees in four functional

areas, indicated by the letters A (Air), L (Land), M (Maritime) and E (Environment and Medical Support).

The following E grade was searched for: 'E3 – Restricted employment outside UK due to medical support or environmental requirements'.

- The JMES provides sufficient information to enable employment and deployment understanding, but it does not give sufficient information to allow a precise understanding of how an individual may be employed. This is achieved by the use of Medical Limitations (MedLims) and their accompanying codes.

The following MedLims were searched for: '1602: Access to a specialist diet' and 'Rescinded 1602: To have access to specialist diet (type will be specified in Med Docs)'. Personnel whose most recently entered MedLims was a rescinded code, have been excluded from the figures in questions 1-3.

Please be aware there are other dietary MedLims, for example there is an additional MedLim relating to the gluten free diet which has not been included within this response.

Information was derived from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) which was rolled out in 2007. 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.

The following Read codes were used to identify personnel with the MedLims '1602: Access to a specialist diet':

DMS9147	1602: To have access to specialist diet (type will be specified in Med Docs)
DMS9148	Rescinded 1602: To have access to specialist diet (type will be specified in Med Docs)

The following Read codes were used to identify personnel with Coeliac disease:

J6901	Acquired coeliac disease
J690	Coeliac disease
68W4	Coeliac disease autoantibody profile positive
J690z	Coeliac disease NOS
J6900	Congenital coeliac disease

The following Read codes were used to identify personnel with a food allergy:

SN58B	Allergy to banana	13A7	Egg free diet - allergy
^ESCTAL769611	Allergy to hazelnut	SN581	Egg protein allergy
EMISNQAL32	Allergy to kiwi fruit	SN585	Fish allergy
EMISNQAL8	Allergy to mushrooms	SN58	Food allergy
ESCTAL7	Allergy to pineapple	14M1	H/O: food allergy
ESCTAL8	Allergy to pork	13A6	Milk free diet - allergy
EMISNQAL33	Allergy to rice	SN588	Mushroom allergy
SN58A	Allergy to soya	SN583	Nut allergy
SN589	Allergy to strawberries	SN582	Peanut allergy
SN58C	Allergy to tomato	SN586	Seafood allergy
J432-2	Cow's milk allergy	SN587	Shellfish allergy
2126D	Cow's milk protein allergy symptoms resolved	SN589-1	Strawberry allergy
SN580	Egg allergy	SN584	Wheat allergy

Please note that if information was entered as free text in the patient record then it was 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 data extract 1 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 currently serving personnel, service, to identify aircrew and flying stream.

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.

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/>.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,
Defence Statistics Health