



Ministry of Defence

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Ministry of Defence
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9 August 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 12 July 2022 requesting the following information:

“Between 2017 and Present;

- 1, How many individual heat and cold illnesses have been recorded by the MoD, overall between the British Army, Royal Air Force & Royal Navy?
- 2, Regarding question 1, what is the breakdown of that figure between each Service?
- 3, Regarding question 1 and 2, what is the breakdown of those figures of the three Service's; between Regular and Reserve SP's?"

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 information in scope of your request is held. However, I must advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. This is because identifying the number of individual episodes of heat and cold injury/illness would take in excess of three months of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

Defence Statistics Health compile data from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP) data warehouse. DMICP has a centralised data warehouse of coded information. It is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers. DMICP was rolled out in 2007 and legacy medical data for currently serving personnel was migrated across during rollout. By 2010, DMICP was in place for the UK and the majority of Germany. Rollout to other overseas locations commenced in November 2011. Prior to this data warehouse, medical records were kept locally, at each individual medical centre.

A military GP can record 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 this information when a Read code has been entered into the electronic patient record. If an individual has more than one code relating to the same condition it is not possible to identify if the subsequent codes are for a new episode of that condition, or for ongoing care/review of the original illness.

The MOD may consider providing the following information which is in scope:

- The total number of UK armed forces personnel with a Read code for a heat or cold illness entered into their electronic health between 2017 and 2022 broken down by service and regular/reserve status.

Please note, if an individual has more than one entry of a heat or cold Read code, then they will be counted only once. In addition, in line with JSP200 Statistics Disclosure Guidance, numbers fewer than five will be suppressed in order to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities.

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 our statistical publications covering primary care in the UK Armed Forces 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