



# Ministry of Defence

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12 December 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 18 November 2022 in which you requested the following information:

The number of soldiers serving with the battalions which make up the Royal Regiment of Scotland who have failed drug tests in 2021 and 2022 thus far.

I would like this information broken down by year, substance involved, rank/job title of staff member, and the outcome of disciplinary proceedings against them.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. 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 and is below in Annex A. Due to the low numbers, some of the information is exempt from release under Section 40 (Personal Data). Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. In practice, this means that some of the information has been collated to protect anonymity of individuals.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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,

[REDACTED]

Annex A

This has been answered with figures for those who are capbadged as Royal Regiment of Scotland. Figures for 2022 are until 30 November.

Please note that the figures provided are single Service estimates based on data which is not gathered for statistical purposes or subject to the same level of scrutiny as official statistics produced by Defence Statistics. The figures provided may therefore be subject to data quality issues affecting their accuracy.

The number of personnel who tested positive in 2021 was 27. The number of personnel who tested positive in 2022 was 20. Please note that in 2022, the total number of CDT fails was 21, as one Service Person tested positive twice.

Of those with positive tests in 2021, 25 were discharged and 2 results are currently still being processed. Of those with positive tests in 2022, 15 were discharged, 1 was retained and 4 are currently being processed. Under Section 16 (Advice & Assistance) I can advise you that Army personnel caught taking drugs can expect to be discharged.

Ranks of those found positive in 2021 were Private, Lance Corporal and Corporal. Ranks of those found positive in 2022 were Private and Lance Corporal.

The drugs detected in 2021 were Cocaine and Cannabis. The drugs detected in 2022 were Cocaine, Cannabis and Ecstasy.