



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2023/04709

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 13 April 2023 requesting the following information:

“Under the FOI Act, could you please provide details of the number of UK armed forces personnel who had a diagnostic read code for an eating disorder entered into their electronic health record between December 2021 and December 2022, broken down by calendar year, disorder, gender, and military service. Could the format be the same as in Reference: FOI2022/01182.”

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.

Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 **129** UK armed forces personnel had a Read code for an eating disorder entered into their medical record. **Table 1** presents this information by disorder, gender and military service.

Please note that personnel may have had eating disorder Read codes entered multiple times over the period indicated. Personnel may also have had Read codes entered prior to 2022 and so the records counted in this response may not reflect the year personnel were first diagnosed with an eating disorder.

Table 1: UK armed forces personnel¹ with an eating disorder Read code by disorder, gender and military service, numbers²

1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	2022
All	129
Royal Navy³	32
Army	57
RAF	40
Male	48
Female	81
Anorexia Nervosa	9
Bulimia Nervosa	14
Other	11
Unspecified	96

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained, regular and reservist personnel.

² Please note numbers may not sum to their total as personnel are counted in every eating disorder for which they have a Read code, but only once in the total. Personnel who have more than one eating disorder Read code recorded in the period and change service will be counted once in each service but only once in the total.

³ Royal Navy includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

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

Personnel include all UK armed forces regular and reservist, trained and untrained 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 were serving between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022.

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 seen only by the NHS were not included in 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.

Only Read codes that contain "Anorexia Nervosa" have been included in the "Anorexia Nervosa" category, as summarised in the table below. Read codes for anorexia that do not contain the term "nervosa" have not been included in this category. This is because "Anorexia Nervosa" is a mental health condition that requires specific input from a clinician, whereas the Read code "Anorexia" implies that there is an eating disorder present without this specific input, and thus is different to "Anorexia Nervosa".

The totals in the "Unspecified" category include only individuals whose electronic medical records contain Read codes for only unspecified eating disorders and no Read codes for specified eating disorders.

The following Read Codes were used to identify personnel with an eating disorder:

Read code	Description	Eating disorder
E271	Anorexia nervosa	Anorexia nervosa
Eu501	[X]Atypical anorexia nervosa	Anorexia nervosa
Eu500	[X]Anorexia nervosa	Anorexia nervosa
1467	H/O: anorexia nervosa	Anorexia nervosa
Eu502	[X]Bulimia nervosa	Bulimia nervosa
Eu503	[X]Atypical bulimia nervosa	Bulimia nervosa
E2751	Bulimia (non-organic overeating)	Bulimia nervosa
Eu502-1	[X]Bulimia NOS	Bulimia nervosa
E2752	Pica	Other
Eu50y-1	[X]Pica in adults	Other
Eu504	[X]Overeating associated with other psychological disturbances	Other
Eu504-1	[X]Psychogenic overeating	Other
Eu505-1	[X]Psychogenic vomiting	Other
Eu505	[X]Vomiting associated with other psychological disturbances	Other
E2642	Cyclical vomiting - psychogenic	Other
E2751-1	Compulsive eating disorder	Other
E2754	Psychogenic vomiting NOS	Other
E2757	Psychogenic polydipsia	Other
1612	Appetite loss - anorexia	Other
1612-1	Anorexia symptom	Other

1JZ	Suspected binge eating disorder	Other
EMISCAN3	Anorexia	Other
Fy05	Nocturnal sleep-related eating disorder	Other
R030	[D]Anorexia	Other
R0300	[D]Appetite loss	Other
R030z	[D]Anorexia NOS	Other
Eu50	[X]Eating disorders	Unspecified
Eu50z	[X]Eating disorder, unspecified	Unspecified
E2750	Unspecified non-organic eating disorder	Unspecified
Eu50y	[X]Other eating disorders	Unspecified
E275z	Non-organic eating disorder NOS	Unspecified
E275y	Other specified non-organic eating disorder	Unspecified
E275	Other and unspecified non-organic eating disorders	Unspecified
EMISNQEA3	Eating disorders	Unspecified

Please note that if information was entered as free text in the patient record then it is 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 extract 03 May 2023.

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 and gender at the time of Read code entry.

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). 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 (Analysis Directorate)