



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 7 August 2023 requesting the following information:

- “1. Within the Single Services both Regular and Reserve, how many are Neurodiverse (by Officer and Other Ranks if possible)?
2. Within the Single Services both Regular and Reserve, how many are Autistic (by Officer and Other Ranks if possible)?”

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 the information in scope of your request is held.

The term ‘neurodiverse’ has been interpreted as one of the following conditions:

- ADHD,
- autism,
- dyslexia,
- dyspraxia.

As at 1 July 2023, **2,893** currently serving UK armed forces personnel had at least one Read code for a neurodiverse condition entered into their electronic medical record. Of these, **459** had at least one read code for Autism. Breakdowns by service and Officer/Other Ranks are shown in **Tables 1** and **2**.

Table 1: UK armed forces personnel¹ with a neurodiversity Read code by service and Officer / Other Ranks, numbers

As at 1 July 2023

	All	Officer	Other Ranks
All	2,893	374	2,519
Royal Navy²	483	70	413
Army	2,162	254	1,908
RAF	248	50	198

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

² Royal Navy includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel.

Table 2: UK armed forces personnel¹ with an autism Read code by service and Officer / Other Ranks, numbers

As at 1 July 2023

	All	Officer	Other Ranks
All	459	70	389
Royal Navy²	112	9	103
Army	293	46	247
RAF	54	15	39

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

² Royal Navy includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel.

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

The figures provided in this response are for all UK armed forces trained and untrained, regular and reservist personnel in service as at 1 July 2023. This does not include entitled or non-entitled civilians, foreign service or non-UK military.

Personnel have been counted as neurodiverse if they have a Read code for ADHD, autism, dyslexia or dyspraxia entered into their electronic medical record at any point in time.

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 these conditions 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.

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 for Read codes can be run.

The following Read Codes were used to identify ADHD:

Read code	Description
6A61	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder annual review
8BPT	Drug therapy ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)
8BPT0	Stimulant drug therapy for ADHD
8BPT1	Non-stimulant drug therapy for ADHD
9Ngp	On drug ther ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder)
9Ngp0	On stim drug ther ADHD (attention def hyperactivity disorder)
9Ngp1	On non-stimulant drug therapy for ADHD
9OI8	ADHD monitoring invitation first letter
9OI9	ADHD monitoring invitation second letter
9OIA	ADHD monitoring invitation third letter
E2E00	Attention deficit without hyperactivity
E2E01	Attention deficit with hyperactivity
Eu900	[X]Disturbance of activity and attention
Eu900-1	[X]Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
Eu902	[X]Deficits in attention, motor control and perception
Eu9y7	[X]Attention deficit disorder
EMISNQAT45	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder review

The following Read Codes were used to identify Autism:

Read code	Description
E140-2	Autism
Eu840-1	[X]Autistic disorder
Eu841	[X]Atypical autism
Eu845	[X]Asperger's syndrome
Eu84z-1	[X]Autistic spectrum disorder

The following Read Codes were used to identify Dyslexia:

Read code	Description
R0463	Dyslexia
EU810-2	Developmental dyslexia
2B55	O/E dyslexia

The following Read Codes were used to identify Dyspraxia:

Read code	Description
E2F4	Coordination disorder (dyspraxia)
E2F4-2	Dyspraxia syndrome
2B53-1	O/E dyspraxia
EU82-3	Developmental dyspraxia
R0469-1	Oral dyspraxia
F4835-2	Oculomotor dyspraxia

Only information that is Read coded is available for electronic searches. To identify text or scanned information would require an individual review of each patient record. DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract: 15 August 2023.

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) is the most accurate source of demographic information for UK Armed Forces personnel and was used to gather information on an individual's service and rank.

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)