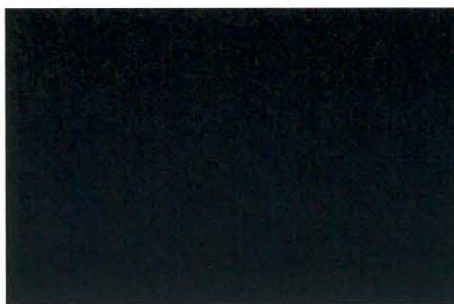




Ministry
of Defence



FOI2021/03739

E-mail: NAVYACNS-SECFOIGroup@mod.gov.uk



4 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 April 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'Please provide the number of failed compulsory drug tests by Royal Navy personnel and a breakdown of how many tests were failed for each of the banned substances in the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and is detailed at Annex A to this letter.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, the MOD has a policy of Compulsory Drug Testing, which seeks to reinforce the message that drug use is unacceptable in Service personnel. The Royal Navy does not tolerate drug misuse within its ranks as it is incompatible with military service and operational effectiveness. Royal Navy personnel caught taking drugs can expect to be discharged.

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

Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section

ANNEX A
to FOI2021/03739
dated 4 May 2021

Number of Compulsory Drug Test Failures in the Royal Navy – 2015 to 2020:

YEAR (1 January to 31 December)	NUMBER
2015	40
2016	77
2017	74
2018	135
2019	142
2020	94

Breakdown of Substances:

Cocaine
Cannabis
Ecstasy
Steroids
Benzodiazepine
Codeine and Morphine
Ketamine

