



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2023/00943

[REDACTED]

21 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 23 January 2023 requesting the following information:

“by alcohol misuse I would like cases where the term ‘alcohol misuse’ was used in the recorded information, and wider information in relation to anything substantially related to alcohol misuse for example, drink driving, or other disciplinary offences”

This clarified your earlier request for:

“could you provide details of the number of armed forces personnel who have been medically discharged from the armed forces where alcohol abuse, alcohol dependency or an alcohol related disease, such as Cirrhosis, was a principal or contributory factor. I would like figures from 2018 by service, calendar year and number.

Could you also supply details of the number of armed forces personnel subjected to disciplinary and administrative action for alcohol misuse. I would like figures from 2018 by service calendar year and number. I would also like figures for the number of personnel dismissed from the armed forces for an alcohol related offence.”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information requested has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm information in scope of your request is held.

I have placed the responses at Annex A and B at the bottom of this document.

Section 40(2) (personal information) has been applied to some of the information to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation. Accordingly, and in line with the MOD’s Disclosure Control and

Rounding Policy (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-statistics-policies/ministry-of-defence-disclosure-control-and-rounding-policy>) figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, and '~' denotes figures fewer than five.

The figures provided below do not include cases dealt with at Court Martial; the Military Court Service publish Court Martial results on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/court-martial-results-from-the-military-court-centres>. That information is exempt from release under Section 21 of FOIA (information reasonably accessible to the applicant). Section 21 of FOIA is an absolute exemption and does not attract a Public Interest Test.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint 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. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat

Annex A - Number of UK Regular armed forces personnel who were medically discharged with a principal or contributory cause of alcohol abuse, alcohol dependency, or an alcohol-related disease between 1 January 2018 to 31 October 2022 (latest data available)

Between 1 January 2018 and 31 October 2022 (latest data available), **80** UK Regular Armed Forces personnel were medically discharged with a principal or contributory cause of alcohol abuse, alcohol dependency, or an alcohol-related disease. **Table 1** presents this information by year and service.

Table 1: UK Regular Armed Forces personnel¹ medically discharged with a principal or contributory cause of alcohol abuse, alcohol dependency, or an alcohol-related disease, by service and year, numbers

1 January 2018 to 31 October 2022

	All	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 ² ³
Royal Navy ⁴	10	0	0	~	~	10
Army	60	20	10	20	10	10
RAF	10	~	~	~	~	~

Source: FMed 23, DMICP & JPA.

1 UK Regular Armed Forces includes trained and untrained personnel.

2 Includes data from 1 January 2022 to 31 October 2022 only.

3 Data from 1 April 2022 onwards is provisional and subject to change.

4 Includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel.

~ In line with policy, figures fewer than five have been suppressed.

Please note, personnel can be discharged due to multiple conditions and therefore alcohol abuse, alcohol dependency, or an alcohol-related disease may not be the only cause of medical discharge.

Annex B - Number of UK Regular armed forces personnel found guilty of relevant offences

Notes/Caveats

The figures below do not include cases dealt with at Court Martial; the Military Court Service publish Court Martial results on GOV.UK. That information is exempt from release under Section 21 of FOIA (information reasonably accessible to the applicant).

The sentence of 'Dismissal from HMS' is only available at Court Martial, it is not available at Summary Hearing, hence figures for Dismissal have not been provided below.

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.

For those awarded 'Termination of Service', figures have been rounded to the nearest 10; any numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

~ means 5 or fewer.

Army figures may also include Reserves.

Army

A search of cases recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration system was conducted to identify the number of Army personnel each year with a Summary Hearing conviction or AGAI 67 Major Administrative Action sanction for the charges/reasons listed below.

Summary Hearing conviction for any of the following charges:

- Unfitness or misconduct through alcohol or drugs - section 20 Armed Forces Act 2006 (where the offence is due to alcohol rather than drugs)
- Exceeding alcohol limit for prescribed safety-critical duties - s20A Armed Forces Act 2006
- Driving or being in charge with excess alcohol - section 5 Road Traffic Act 1988

AGAI 67 Major Administrative Action sanction awarded for any of the following reasons:

- Civil Conviction/Caution - Drink Driving
- Personal Failing - Alcohol Misuse

Calendar Year*	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Army personnel with a Summary Hearing conviction or AGAI 67 Major Administrative Action sanction for the	330	380	300	320	410

charges/reasons listed in the table above					
Number of the above-mentioned Army personnel who have been awarded an AGAI 67 Major Administrative Action sanction of 'Termination of Service' for either of the reasons listed in the table above	10	~	10	10	10

*Based on the date of the Summary Hearing or the date of the award of the sanction

Royal Air Force

Year	Number of personnel subject to Discipline or administrative Action	Number of personnel discharged
2018	120	~
2019	130	~
2020	100	~
2021	110	30
2022	90	~

Royal Navy

Year	Number of personnel subject to Discipline or administrative Action
2018	110
2019	80
2020	120
2021	100
2022	90