



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Statistics Health  
Ministry of Defence  
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Ref: FOI2024/00169

05 February 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 4 January 2024 requesting the following information:

How many MoD personnel had read codes 1365 (Heavy Drinker), 1366 (Very Heavy Drinker), E230 (Dependence) and Eu105 (Hallucinations/Paranoia) added to their records in 2021, 2022 and 2023?

Please break this down by service - eg: Army, Navy, RAF, Marines.

Please break this down by gender.

If the cost limit allows, please also provide read code statistics for 8H35.00 and 8H7p.00 in the same time period, broken down by service (Army, Navy, Marines, RAF)

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. Some of the information falls within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at Section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOI Act and has been withheld.

I can advise that some of the information in scope of your request falls entirely within the scope of the exemption provided for at Sections 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been redacted. Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise, this exercise involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against the legitimate interests in disclosure, this is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions in FOIA. The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the absolute exemption in section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interest test, as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise has resulted in numbers fewer than five being suppressed to prevent inadvertent disclosure of individual identities.

Between 1 January 2021 and 30 November 2023:

- **Fewer than five** UK armed forces personnel had at least one 1365, 1366, E230 or Eu105 Read code entered into their electronic medical record.
  - These were all male service personnel in the army.

- **Ten** UK armed forces personnel had at least one 8H35 or 8H7p Read code entered into their electronic medical record.
  - 2021 = **five**, 2022 = **fewer than five**, 2023 = **fewer than five**
  - Of these, **six** were army personnel, **fewer than five** were Royal Navy personnel and **fewer than five** were RAF personnel.
  - All **ten** were male service personnel.

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

The figures presented in this response include all UK armed forces regular and reservist personnel. This does not include entitled or non-entitled civilians, foreign service or non-UK military. All personnel who had a DMICP record and served between 1 January 2021 and 1 December 2023 were included and numbers are not limited to the currently serving population.

Reservist personnel were 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 figures presented for the number of personnel with a Read code entered into their military medical record.

The following Read codes were used for this search:

Read code	Description
1365	Heavy drinker - 7-9u/day
1366	Very heavy drinker - >9u/day
8H35	Admitted to alcohol detoxification centre
8H7p	Referral to community alcohol team
E230	Acute alcoholic intoxication in alcoholism
Eu105	[X]Mental & behav dis due to use alcohol: psychotic disorder

Please note that these requested Read codes are not the only Read codes available to record alcohol misuse and dependence. Therefore the figures provided should not be used as an indication of the total number of Armed Forces personnel with alcohol misuse/dependence Read codes.

We provide a package of measures to educate personnel on alcohol misuse to help them make informed decisions and have introduced extensive policy and guidance for Commanders.

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.

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 will not be retrieved using the search for Read codes.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 9 January 2024.

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.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing [Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Analysis-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.gov.uk)

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](mailto: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)