



Ministry  
of Defence

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FOI2022/11017

E-mail: [NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk](mailto:NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

4 October 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 September 2022 in which you requested the following information:

'Could you answer the following questions please

- 1 How many vegans are serving in the Royal Navy?
- 2 How many vegetarians are serving in the Royal Navy?
- 3 How many personnel have colitis in the Royal Navy?'

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

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

In response to parts one and two of your request concerning the the number of personnel serving in the Royal Navy (RN) who are vegan or vegetarian, please be advised that no recorded information is held by the Department to satisfy these parts of your request.

In response to part three of your request, the number of personnel serving in the RN with Colitis is 79. The information provided is for the number of RN Personnel serving as at 1 August 2022 with a read code for Ulcerative Colitis entered into their electronic medical record.

The figure presented for the number of serving personnel with ulcerative colitis includes all RN and Royal Marines (RM), regular and reservist, trained and untrained personnel in service as at 1 August 2022. This does not include entitled or non-entitled civilians, foreign service or non-UK military.

Reservist personnel have been included. However, please note that the majority of reservist personnel receive their primary medical care from the National Health Service (NHS). Any personnel who were seen only by the NHS regarding ulcerative colitis and have not informed the MOD were not included in the number of personnel with a Read code entered into their military medical record.

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.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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