



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2024/02335

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 5 February 2024 requesting the following information:

"Please answer the following questions for the 2023 calendar year.

1. How many armed forces personnel were prescribed Viagra, or similar drugs, during the year and could the figures be broken down by the services and by officers and non-officer ranks.
2. How many armed forces personnel were prescribed antidepressants during the year and could the figures be broken down by the services and by officers and non-officer ranks.
3. How many armed forces personnel were prescribed sleeping tablets, during the year and could the figures be broken down by the services and by officers and non-officer ranks."

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.

Between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, **877** UK armed forces personnel had a prescription for Viagra or a similar drug entered into their medical record. **Table 1** presents this information by service and officer/rank status.

Table 1: UK armed forces personnel¹ prescribed Viagra, or similar drugs by service and officer/rank status, numbers²

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	All	Officer	Rank
All	877	233	645
Royal Navy³	232	56	176
Army	417	99	318
RAF	228	78	151

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

² Personnel were counted once per service and rank but only once in the total for the year; therefore, the sum of each service or rank may not equal the total number of personnel with a prescription – this applies to the overall total and to the totals for each service and rank. E.g. if personnel had a prescription whilst they were a rank and another whilst they were an officer, they were counted once in Rank and once in Officer but only once in the total.

³ Royal Navy includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel.

Between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, **7,189** UK armed forces personnel had a prescription for an antidepressant drug entered into their medical record. **Table 2** presents this information by service and officer/rank status.

Table 2: UK armed forces personnel¹ prescribed antidepressants by service and officer/rank status, numbers²

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	All	Officer	Rank
All	7,189	1,014	6,180
Royal Navy³	1,495	262	1,234
Army	3,965	476	3,493
RAF	1,730	276	1,454

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

² Personnel were counted once per service and rank but only once in the total for the year; therefore, the sum of each service or rank may not equal the total number of personnel with a prescription – this applies to the overall total and to the totals for each service and rank. E.g. if personnel had a prescription whilst they were a rank and another whilst they were an officer, they were counted once in Rank and once in Officer but only once in the total.

³ Royal Navy includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel.

Between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, **3,109** UK armed forces personnel had a prescription for sleeping tablets entered into their medical record. **Table 3** presents this information by service and officer/rank status.

Table 3: UK armed forces personnel¹ prescribed sleeping tablets² by service and officer/rank status, numbers³

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	All	Officer	Rank
All	3,109	789	2,321
Royal Navy⁴	598	145	453
Army	1,343	168	1,176
RAF	1,168	476	692

Source: DMICP and JPA

¹ Includes trained and untrained regular and reservist personnel.

² Sleeping tablets includes sleeping medication in tablet or capsule form.

³ Personnel were counted once per service and rank but only once in the total for the year; therefore, the sum of each service or rank may not equal the total number of personnel with a prescription – this applies to the overall total and to the totals for each service and rank. E.g. if personnel had a prescription whilst they were a rank and another whilst they were an officer, they were counted once in Rank and once in Officer but only once in the total.

⁴ 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 who had a DMICP record and served between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023 and is not limited to the currently serving population. This does not include entitled or non-entitled civilians, foreign service or non-UK military.

It is not possible to identify from centrally held coded information the condition for which the drugs were prescribed. Viagra can be prescribed for erectile dysfunction, but other similar drugs can be prescribed for benign prostatic hyperplasia or for pulmonary hypertension by a specialist. Additionally, some medications used to treat depression are used to treat other conditions. Amitriptyline, nortriptyline and duloxetine are used much more frequently in the management of neuropathic pain than in depression. Furthermore, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) such as fluoxetine, paroxetine, citalopram, escitalopram and sertraline can be used to treat other medical conditions. Therefore, the numbers provided will contain prescriptions for medical conditions other than erectile dysfunction, depression and insomnia. To determine the reason for the prescriptions would require a clinician to manually review the medical records of personnel prescribed these drugs which would exceed the cost limit associated with FOI requests.

The information shown for sleeping pills relates to sleeping medications in tablet and capsule form only.

Information was derived from the Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP). It is the source of electronic, integrated healthcare records for primary healthcare and some MOD specialist care providers from which searches for prescription drugs can be run.

Please note, it is not possible to determine from the centrally held database whether the medicine was taken by the patient.

The following drug names and brands were used to identify prescriptions for Viagra and similar drugs in DMICP:

Adcirca	Levitra	Talmanco
Alprostadil	Muse	Vardenafil
Avanafil	Nipatra	Viagra
Caverject	Phentolamine And Aviptadil	Viridal
Caverject Dual Chamber	Revatio	Viridal Duo
Cialis	Sildenafil Citrate	Vitaros
Granpidam	Spedra	Vizarsin
Invicorp	Tadalafil	

The following drug names and brands were used to identify prescriptions for antidepressants in DMICP:

Agomelatine	Edronax	Optimax	Tonpular XL
Allegron	Efexor	Optimax Wv	Tranlycypromine
Alventa XL	Efexor XL	Oxactin	Trazodone Hydrochloride
Amitriptyline Hydrochloride	Escitalopram	Pacitron	Trimipramine
Amitriptyline Sr	Faverin	Paroxetine Hydrochloride	Triptafen
Amitriptyline with Perphenazine	Felicium	Paxoran	Trixtat XL
Amoxapine	Feprapax	Phenelzine	Tryptophan
Amphero XL	Fluoxetine Hydrochloride	Politid XL	Valdoxan
Aremis	Fluvoxamine Maleate	Prepadine	Vaxalin
Asendin	Gamanil	Prothiaden	Venaxx XL
Besitran	Imipramine	Protriptyline	Vencarm
Bolvidon	Imipramine Hydrochloride	Protriptyline Hydrochloride	Venlablue XL
Bonilux XL	Isocarboxazid	Prozac	Venladex XL
Brintellix	Lofepamine	Prozep	Venlafaxine
Cipralext	Lomont	Prozit	Venlafaxine Hydrochloride
Cipramil	L-Tryptophan	Ranfexine XL	Venlalic XL
Citalopram Hydrobromide	Ludiomil	Ranflutin	Venlaneo
Citalopram Hydrochloride	Lustral	Reboxetine	Venlasov XL
Clomipramine Hydrochloride	Majoven XL	Rodemel XL	Vensir XL
Concordin	Manerix	Seroxat	Venzip XL
Cymbalta	Mentaven XL	Seroxat Cr	Vexarin
Defanyl	Mianserin Hydrochloride	Sertraline Hydrochloride	Viepax
Depefex XL	Mirtazapine	Serzone	Viepax XL
Dosulepin Hydrochloride	Moclobemide	Sinepin	Vivactil
Dothapax 25/75	Molipaxin	Sinequan	Vortioxetine
Doxepin	Nardil	Sunveniz XL	Winfex XL
Doxepin XL	Nefazodone Hydrochloride	Tardcaps XL	Yentreve
Duciltia	Nortriptyline	Thaden	Zispin
Duloxetine	Olena	Tifaxin XL	Zispin Soltab

Yentreve (Duloxetine) 20mg and 40mg capsules were not included in the search as they are not used to treat depression.

The following drug names and brands were used to identify prescriptions for sleeping tablets in DMICP:

Bio-Melatonin	Loprazolam	Stilnoct
Chloral Betaine	Lorazepam	Syncrodin
Chloral Hydrate	Lormerazepam	Temazepam
Chloral Hydrate (Special Order)	Melatonin	Vytalonin
Circadin	Mogadon	Welldorm
Clomethiazole	Nitrados	Zileze 3.75
Dalmane	Nitrazepam	Zileze 7.5
Dormonoc	Noctec	Zimovane
Flurazepam	Remnos	Zimovane Ls
Heminevrin	Slenyto	Zolpidem Tartrate
Icenia Melatonin	Somnite	Zopiclone

Please note that DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 15 February 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 officer/rank status as at the date of prescription.

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