



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2024/03348
[REDACTED]

19 March 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 23 February 2024 requesting the following information:

"The number of currently serving UK armed Forces personnel with

- a) With a record of a prescription for opioid painkillers as per the list in Annex A [of FOI2024/02125]
- b) with a Read code for opioid addiction recorded in their electronic medical record. Please note *clinical SME advice has confirmed the presence of an opioid addiction Read code in a patient's primary medical record indicates that the patient is under the care of a GP and is therefore receiving treatment.*"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). 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.

As at 1 February 2024:

- a) **72,969** currently serving UK armed forces personnel had at least one prescription for an opioid painkiller entered into their medical record ever,
- b) **34** currently serving UK armed forces personnel had at least one Read code for opioid addiction entered into their medical record ever.

Please note, the methodology applied to this request uses Read codes entered at any point in a patient's military medical record. Therefore numbers are not comparable to previously released FOIs which are limited to specific time periods.

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 in service as at 1 February 2024. This does not include entitled or non-entitled civilians, foreign service or non-UK military.

Reservist personnel have been included. However, the requestor should please note that the majority of reservist personnel receive their primary medical care from the NHS. Any personnel who were only seen by the NHS regarding these conditions and have not informed the MOD were not included in the figures presented for the number of personnel with a Read code or prescription entered into their military medical record.

Please note that the number of personnel with a record of opioid addiction represents those who have ever had information for opioid addiction entered into their electronic medical record, so these figures do not necessarily represent personnel with current opioid addiction.

In the case of dependency on any substance, a medical category of Medically Not Deployable is appropriate whilst any treatment is undertaken. Healthcare is available from primary care, specialist mental healthcare in the Departments of Community Mental Health, and for those requiring inpatient management via the Independent Service Providers in the NHS who are contracted to provide such services by the MOD.

Whilst healthcare needs have higher priority, you will wish to note that the MOD views the misuse of drugs within the Armed Forces as incompatible with military service. Evidence that drugs have been taken (for example, through failing a Compulsory Drug Testing (CDT)) is not necessary for administrative or disciplinary action to be taken. Personnel who are subject to administrative or disciplinary action for substance misuse can expect to be removed from the Services. All Service personnel are subject to random CDT regardless of their deployment status.

The following Read Codes were used to identify opioid addiction:

Code	Description	Code	Description
13cM1	Opioid analgesic dependence	E248	Combined opioid with other drug dependence
8B23-1	Drug addictn therap-methadone	E2480	Combined opioid with other drug dependence, unspecified
8B2M	Buprenorphine maintenance therapy	E2481	Combined opioid with other drug dependence, continuous
8B2N	Drug addiction detoxification therapy - methadone	E2482	Combined opioid with other drug dependence, episodic
8B2P	Drug addiction maintenance therapy - methadone	E2483	Combined opioid with other drug dependence in remission
8B2Q	Drug addiction maintenance therapy - buprenorphine	E248z	Combined opioid with other drug dependence NOS
8B2R	Drug addiction detoxification therapy - buprenorphine	Eu11	[X]Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids
8B2S	Opioid agonist substitution therapy	Eu110	[X]Mental & behav dis due to use opioids: acute intoxication
8BE0	Reinduction to methadone maintenance therapy	Eu111	[X]Mental and behav dis due to use of opioids: harmful use
8BE1	Reinduction to buprenorphine maintenance therapy	Eu112	[X]Mental and behav dis due to use opioids: dependence syndr
E240	Opioid type drug dependence	Eu112-1	[X]Drug addiction - opioids
E240-1	Heroin dependence	Eu112-2	[X]Heroin addiction
E240-2	Methadone dependence	Eu113	[X]Mental and behav dis due to use opioids: withdrawal state
E240-3	Morphine dependence	Eu113-1	[X]Cold turkey, opiate withdrawal
E240-4	Opium dependence	Eu114	Men & behav dis due opioid: withdrawal state with delirium
E2400	Unspecified opioid dependence	Eu115	[X]Mental & behav dis due to use opioids: psychotic disorder
E2401	Continuous opioid dependence	Eu116	[X]Mental and behav dis due to use opioids: amnesic syndrome
E2402	Episodic opioid dependence	Eu117	[X]Men & beh dis due opioids: resid & late-onset psychot dis
E2403	Opioid dependence in remission	Eu11y	[X]Men & behav dis due to use opioids: oth men & behav dis
E240z	Opioid drug dependence NOS	Eu11z	[X]Ment & behav dis due use opioids: unsp ment & behav dis

A list of all opioid painkillers included in the total can be found in **Annex A**. Please note, the full list of opioid painkillers also includes items such as “aspirin, paracetamol and codeine”, “Panadol ultra”, and “ibuprofen and codeine”.

Prescriptions made by the MOD for opioid painkillers reflect both national and NHS guidelines.

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

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 Read codes and prescription drugs 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 and prescriptions.

DMICP is a live data source and is subject to change. Date of extract 07 March 2024.

Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) is the most accurate source for demographic information for UK Armed Forces personnel and was used to identify the currently serving population.

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 (Analysis Directorate)

Drug Name

Abstral
Abtard
Actiq
Alfentanil
Aspirin And Codeine
Aspirin Paracetamol And Codeine
Breakyl
Brimisol Pr
Bunov
Bupeaze
Buplast
Bupramyl
Buprenorph
Buprenorph/Naloxone
Buprenorphine
Buprenorphine And Naloxone
Busiete
Butec
Butrans
Camphorated Opium
Candox
Carexil
Carlosafine
Co-codamol
Co-Codamol 12.8/500
Co-Codamol 15/500
Co-Codamol 30/500
Co-Codamol 60/1000
Co-Codamol 8/500
Co-Codamol 8/500 Effervescent
Codeine
Codeine Phosphate
Codipar
cyclimorph
Cyclimorph 10
Cyclimorph 15
Cyclimorph-10
Cyclimorph-15
demerol
Dextromoramide
df 118
Df 118 Forte
dhc continus
Diamorph HCl
Diamorphine Hydrochloride
Diconal
Dihydrocodeine
Dihydrocodeine Tartrate
dilaudid

Dipipanone And Cyclizine
dipipanone hydrochloride
dipipanone hydrochloride with cyclizine
Dolocodon Pr
dolophine
Dromadol Sr
Dromadol XI
duragesic
Durogesic
Durogesic Dtrans
Effentora
Eptadone
eroset
Espranor
exalgo
Fencino
fentalis
Fentalis Reservoir
Fentanyl
Fentanyl Cit
Fentanyl Citrate
fentora
Filnarine Sr
Fortral
Gabup
Gppe Inj_Pamergan
Hapoctasin
heroin hydrochloride
hydrocodone
hydromorphone
Hydromorphone Hydrochloride
Ibuprofen And Codeine
Ibuprofen M/r And Codeine
Instanyl
Invodol Sr
Ixylone
Kapake
Kapake Insts 30/500
Kapake Insts 60/1000
Larapam Sr (Tramadol)
Leveraxo
Longtec
lorcet
lortab
Lynlor
Mabron
Maneo
Marol
Matrifen
Maxitram Sr

Mediject Morphine Sulfate
Mediject Morphine Sulphate
meperidine
meptazinol
meptid
Methadone
Methadone 1 Mg/MI
Methadone Hydrochloride
Methadose
Metharose
Mezolar Matrix
Migraleve
Migraleve Ultra
Migraleve yellow
Min-I-Jet Morphine Sulfate
Min-I-Jet Morphine Sulphate
Minjet_Morph Sulf
Morcap Sr
Morph
Morph & Cocaine
Morph HCl
Morph Sulf
Morph/Cyclizine
Morphgesic Sr
Morphine
Morphine and Atropine
Morphine Hydrochloride
Morphine Sulfate
Morphine Sulfate in Intrasite
Morphine Sulphate
Morphine Tartrate and Cyclizine Tartrate
morphine with cyclizine
Mst Continus
Mxl
Mylafent
Natzon
Nobligan Retard
norco
Oldaram
Onexila XI
onsolis
Opiodur
Opium
Opium_Tinct
Oramorph
Oramorph Concentrated
Oramorph Sr
Oramorph Unit Dose
Osmach
Osmanil

Oxeltra
Oxycodone And Naloxone
Oxycodone HCl
Oxycodone HCl/Naloxone HCl
Oxycodone Hydrochloride
Oxycodone Pectinate
Oxycontin
Oxylan
OxyNorm
OxyNorm Concentrate
Oxypro
Palexia
Palexia Sr
Palfium
Palladone
palladone sr
Palladone-Sr
Pamergan P100
panadol ultra
Panadol Ultra
Panitaz
Papaveretum
Papaveretum And Hyoscine
Paracetamol & Codeine
Paracetamol And Dihydrocodeine
paracodol
Pecfent
Pentazocine
Pentazocine Lactate
Pethidine
Pethidine Hydrochloride
Physeptone
Prefibin
Prenotrix
Proladone
Rapifen
Recivit
Reletrans
Relevtec
Reltebon
remedeine
Remedine FORTE
Remifentanil Hydrochloride
Renocontin
Rhotard_Morph SR
Sevodyne
Sevredol
Shortec
Skudexa
solpadeine max

Solpadeine Max
Solpadol
Srm-Rhotard
Sublimaze
Suboxone
Subutex
Sufentanil
Tapentadol
Tapentadol HCL
Targinact
Temgesic
Tephine
Tilodol Sr
Tilofyl
Tradorec XI
Tramacet
Tramadol And Dexketoprofen
Tramadol And Paracetamol
Tramadol Hydrochloride
Tramake
Tramake Insts
Tramquel Sr
Tramulief
tramulief sr
Transtec
Turgeon
tylex
Ultiva
vicodin
Victanyl
Yemex
zalviso
Zamadol
Zamadol 24hr
Zamadol Melt
Zamadol Sr
zapain
Zeridame Sr
Zomestine
Zomorph
Zydol
Zydol Sr
Zydol XL
Zytram Sr