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Your reference: -
Our reference: FOI 04-03-2010-123531-006
Date: 4 May 2010

Dear XXXXXXXX

Thank you for your request which has been received via www.mod.uk on 3 March 2010 which is a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I apologise for the length of time it has taken to reply to your question. You requested the following information:

- “1 – For each of the last 3 calendar years (2007, 2008 and 2009) please state how many positive drugs tests were recorded following tests carried out on members of the armed forces?**
- 2 – If possible please provide a breakdown of those positive tests by type or class of drug.**
- 3 – For the 2009 figures of positive drug tests please provide a breakdown by army corp (as per the definition provided in the Parliamentary Written Answer 190801).”**

Misuse of drugs in the Armed Forces is inconsistent with Service life and our policy can be described as ‘zero tolerance’. Although any Serviceman/woman found^[1] to have been taking drugs can expect to be discharged, ‘zero tolerance’ does not bind the Forces to discharge as its only response to drug misuse. If there are exceptional circumstances and the chain of command can provide a justification for the unusual response of retention then it will be considered.

The misuse of drugs is an issue that can affect the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces. We therefore, have teams working within each of the single Services of the Armed Forces to undertake compulsory drug testing. The figures provided below are for those Armed Forces Personnel that have tested positive for Class A, B and C drugs through our random programme. Some individuals will test positively for more than one class of drug therefore the test results provided may not represent individual cases.

^[1] By Civil or Military prosecution, personal admission or failure of a CDT Test.

Royal Navy	No of Compulsory Drugs Tests carried out	Positive for Class A drug	Positive for Class B drug	Positive for Class C drug
2007	10762	24	0	15
2008	12783	52	0	15
2009	11563	16	20	0

Army	No of Compulsory Drugs Tests carried out	Positive for Class A drug	Positive for Class B drug	Positive for Class C drug
2007	75842	492	16	170
2008	89839	460	4	187
2009	102949	243	168	41

Data in respect of the Royal Air Force is presented in a slightly different. This is because in 2008 there were 3 positive tests for Amphetamine's, which are classified differently depending on how it was ingested. As this is something that they are unable to determine simply from a positive test result data has been provided by drug.

RAF	No of Compulsory Drugs Tests carried out	Positive for Cocaine	Positive for Ecstasy	Positive for Cannabis	Positive for Other
2007	12119	11	0	3	1
2008	12303	10	1	13	3
2009	12399	5	0	7	1

Due to the re-classification of Cannabis from a Class C to a Class B drug in 2009, the figures here may suggest an increase in abuse of this classification. However, our management of those service personnel tested positive is the same regardless of the classification.

In regard to the third part of your question relating to the Army statistics for 2009 broken down by Corp. Please find below a table, in keeping with the Office of National Statistics guidelines, numbers less than five have not been disclosed and are represented by the symbol ~

<u>ARMY STATISTICS 2009</u>	
Regiment	Positive Test Result
Army Air Corps	~
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	12
The Corps of the Royal Engineers	23
Royal Military Police	0
The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	27
The Foot Guards	27
Household Cavalry Regiment & Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment	27
Military Intelligence	0
The Mercian Regiment	15
The Parachute Regiment	6
The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	~
The Royal Anglian Regiment	6
Royal Armoured Corps	17

Royal Army Medical Corps & Royal Army Dental Corps	~
Royal Corps of Signals	9
Royal Logistics Corps	41
Royal Regiment of Artillery	28
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	5
Scottish Division	40
The Rifles	15
The Royal Welsh	9
The Yorkshire Regiment	19

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In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The MoD therefore will be simultaneously posting the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context, in our online FOI Disclosure Log at <http://www.foi.mod.uk>.

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 me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 6th Floor, MoD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

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