



Defence Personnel Secretariat
Zone D, Sixth Floor,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, London, SW1A 2HB.
Telephone: 020 721 89000

xxxxxxxxxx

Our Reference:

FOI- 17-04-2012-103406-001

Date: 3 May 2012

Dear xxxxxxxxx

Thank you for your correspondence dated 16 April which has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It has been passed to my department and I have been asked to respond.

You have asked the following questions:

- 1. For the last calendar year 2011 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 2011 figure of positive drug tests please provide a breakdown by army corps (as per the definition provided in 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 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.

Please find in the table below the information requested for questions one and two.

2011	
Total Number of Tests conducted in the Armed Forces	123,026
Total number of Positive analysis	560
Drug Class	
Class A	324
Class B	168
Class C	69

Please be advised that this is the number of tests carried out not the number of personnel tested. Also it is not uncommon for an individual to return positive urine analysis for more than one drug, hence the disparity in data. Likewise some individuals return positive analysis on numerous tests.

For your third question, below is a table of Army regiments with the number of positive tests against each unit. Again please be advised this does not relate to the number of personnel only the number of positive results. The size of each Corps and Regiment will vary and will be dependant on the number of specialisations contained within it.

Unit	Positive Tests
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	6
Corps of Royal Engineers	25
Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	22
Foot Guards	29
Household Cavalry	~
Mercian Regiment	27
Parachute Regiment	11
Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	14
Royal Anglian Regiment	~
Royal Armoured Corps	26
Royal Army Medical Corps	~
Royal Corps of Signals	11
Royal Logistic Corps	52
Royal Regiment of Artillery	35
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	12
Royal Regiment of Scotland	18
The Rifles	22
The Royal Welsh	12
Yorkshire Regiment	11

~ Denotes a number between 1 and 5

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Defence Personnel Secretariat

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other reuse, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by the Ministry of Defence will have been produced by government officials and will be Crown Copyright. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown Copyright from the Office of Public Sector Information at: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/index.htm>.

Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information

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, 1st Floor, Zone N, 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>.