



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2017/02808

E-mail: ArmySec-&group@mod.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

28 March 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 28 February in which you requested the following information:

1. Please could you provide the number of soldiers who were subject to drug testing in each of the following years: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 (in either financial or calendar years, however this information is held)?

1 (a) Of those, how many tests indicated a soldier had misused drugs or substances in each of those same years?

1 (b) If possible, please could you provide further information as to which drugs were found in these tests?

1 (c) Of those who tested positive for misuse of drugs or substances, how many were discharged as a result in each of those same years?

2. If army reservists are not included in the totals for question 1, please could I have the number of army reservists who were who were subject to drug testing in each of the following years: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 (in either financial or calendar years, however this information is held)?

2 (a) Of those, how many tests indicated a soldier had misused drugs or substances in those same years?

2 (b) If possible, please could you provide further information as to which drugs were found in these tests?

2 (c) Of those who tested positive for misuse of drugs or substances, how many were discharged in those same years as a result?

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information you have requested can be found below, and in answer to part two of your request, I can confirm that Army Reservists are included in the figures.

Some of the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at Section 21 (information accessible to the applicant by other means) of the FOIA. With the exception of your first question, information requested for the complete years 2012 to 2015 can be found at the following links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/555925/RED_FOI2016_08187.pdf

In the above FOI Army data, Amphetamine was included in the 'Other' column.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/527275/HOCS_FOI_2016_Information_of_Army_personnel_drugs_test_abuse_from_2014_to_2016.pdf

1. Please could you provide the number of soldiers who were subject to drug testing in each of the following years: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 (in either financial or calendar years, however this information is held)?

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	01 Jan – 01 Mar 17
No. Tests	112580	119530	111130	96810	93830	14320

1 (a) Of those, how many tests indicated a soldier had misused drugs or substances in each of those same years?

1 (b) If possible, please could you provide further information as to which drugs were found in these tests?

Year	No. Positives	Cocaine	Ecstasy	Heroin	Cannabis	Benzo	Steroids	Ketamine	Amphetamine	Others
2016	770	550	80	-	160	10	30	10	10	-
1 Jan – 1 Mar 17	110	80	10	-	30	-	-	-	-	-

1. (c) Of those who tested positive for misuse of drugs or substances, how many were discharged as a result in each of those same years?

Year	No of Discharges
2016	650
1 Jan – 1 Mar 17	130

Notes:

- The first table shows the number of tests rather than the number of soldiers tested.
- The 'no of positives' column data in the second table shows the number of personnel who have tested positive, not the number of tests.

- Figures for positive drug tests and discharges have not been cross-checked and have come from different sources; an individual tested in one year may not have been discharged in the same year.
- Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, except where specified; numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
- “-” denotes zero or rounded to zero.
- Rounding is necessary, as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity; it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users.
- Soldiers caught taking drugs can expect to be discharged. In a very small number of exceptional circumstances, where an uncharacteristic mistake is made by a young soldier, second chances may be considered. This only happens where soldiers have already shown great promise and they fully meet the stipulated retention criteria.

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 Information Rights Compliance team, 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

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Army Secretariat