



Ministry
of Defence

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17 January 2018

Dear XXXXXX

Thank you for your email of 23 November in which you requested the following information:

1. *Please could you provide the number of soldiers who were subject to drug testing in from 30 June 2017- present*
 - (a) *Of those, how many tests indicated a soldier had misused drugs or substances?*
 - (b) *If possible, please could you provide further information as to which drugs were found in these tests?*
 - (c) *Of those who tested positive for misuse of drugs or substances, how many were discharged as a result?*

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 2017?*
 - (a) *Of those, how many tests indicated a soldier had misused drugs or substances?*
 - (b) *If possible, please could you provide further information as to which drugs were found in these tests?*
 - (c) *Of those who tested positive for misuse of drugs or substances, how many were discharged as a result?*

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held and is provided below. The information includes Army Reservists. CDT failure may take time to investigate, therefore it has not been possible to provide data on discharge decisions. Once discharge decisions have been made on this cohort of personnel, to locate retrieve and extract the information relating to each individual case may be outside the cost limits of the FOIA.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that 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 a Commanding Officer believes the individual meets the stipulated retention criteria. These retention criteria are laid out in Joint Service Publication 835, which is available on the gov.uk website.

Number of Compulsory Drug Tests (CDTs) between 1 July and 31 October and how many of those were positive

| Year | 2017 (1 July to 31 October) |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| No. Tests | 22910 |
| No. Positives | 220 |

Notes

- The table shows the number of tests rather than the number of soldiers tested.
- The 'no of positives' row data shows the number of personnel who have tested positive, not the number of tests.
- Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
- Rounding is necessary, as a means of disclosure control; it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users.
- Please note that these figures are single service estimates only and are not official statistics produced by Defence Statistics.

Drugs found in these CDTs:

Amphetamine, benzodiazepine, cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, ketamine, steroids.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you still 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.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,

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Army Secretariat