



Ministry
of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref: FOI 2023/05689

Henry Shelford
request-975678-4fad276f@whatdotheyknow.com

5 June 2023

Dear Henry Shelford,

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 May 2023 requesting the following information:

- (1) How many people currently serving within the Royal Air Force have a formal diagnosis of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).*
- (2) If an individual serving in the Royal Air Force presents with symptoms of ADHD what is the process from there?*
- (3) In the past 12 months has the Royal Air Force funded or undertaken themselves (perhaps within DCMH) any assessments for ADHD?*
- (4) If the answer to (3) is yes. Please can you tell me how many were undertaken in the past year?*
- (5) Further to (4) If Available, the information too for the prior 3 years?*
- (6) Does the Royal Air Force accept applicants with a diagnosis of ADHD?*
- (7) Further to (6) Does the Royal Air Force accept applicants with a diagnosis of ADHD and taking medication?*
- (8) Further to (6) and (7) if yes to either answer. Are there any restrictions for those applicants?*
- (9) If a service person is diagnosed with ADHD are they able to continue to serve?*
- (10) Further to question (4) Of those people [assessed in the last year] how many were medically discharged within 12 months of receiving an ADHD diagnosis."*
- (11) Does having an ADHD diagnosis prevent you from applying for some roles within the Royal Air Force, and if yes, which roles?*

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, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Information relating to questions 6, 7, 8 and 9 has been withheld under Section 21 of the FOI Act, as it is available to you by other means. The most recent version of the Joint Service Manual of Medical Fitness, JSP 950 Medical Policy Leaflet 6-7-7, can be found at the below link.

The responses to the remaining questions are below:

(1) How many people currently serving within the Royal Air Force have a formal diagnosis of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).

As at 1 March 2023, there were 114 serving Royal Air Force (RAF) personnel who had a formal diagnosis of ADHD in their medical record.

(2) If an individual serving in the Royal Air Force presents with symptoms of ADHD what is the process from there?

If an individual is seeking assessment for ADHD, they will be referred to a Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) by their Medical Officer. If the patient does not already have evidence of a diagnosis of ADHD in childhood, they will likely be referred into specialist NHS services for assessment. The requirement for Defence Primary Healthcare to develop and provide a specialist ADHD service to all service personnel was endorsed by the Clinical Reference Group in June 2022 and forms part of the Healthcare Improvement Programme.

(3) In the past 12 months has the Royal Air Force funded or undertaken themselves (perhaps within DCMH) any assessments for ADHD?

The RAF have provided assessment for Service Personnel through DCMH, however, some individuals have been referred to NHS services whilst others have pursued assessment privately.

(4) If the answer to (3) is yes. Please can you tell me how many were undertaken in the past year?

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, 13 RAF personnel had a first appointment at a DCMH for ADHD.

(5) Further to (4) If Available, the information too for the prior 3 years?

Between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2023, 29 RAF personnel had a first appointment at a DCMH for ADHD.

(10) Further to question (4) Of those people [assessed in the last year] how many were medically discharged within 12 months of receiving an ADHD diagnosis."

Of the 29 RAF personnel who had a first appointment at a DCMH for ADHD between April 2020 and March 2023, none were subsequently medically discharged within a year of the first appointment.

Please note, ADHD may not have been listed as a principal or contributory cause of the subsequent medical discharge and it may have been for an unrelated condition.

(11) Does having an ADHD diagnosis prevent you from applying for some roles within the Royal Air Force, and if yes, which roles?

Suitability for any role is assessed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the specialisation selection sheets.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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, Ground 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 normally investigate your case until the MoD internal 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,

[Original signed]

Air Command Secretariat