



Ministry
of Defence

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FOI2023/05664

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Mr H Shelford
request-975670-5c76a429@whatdotheyknow.com

25 May 2023

Dear Mr Shelford,

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 May 2023 in which you requested the following information:

'Please may I request the answers to the following questions.

- (1) How many people currently serving within the Royal Navy have a formal diagnosis of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder).
 - (2) If an individual serving in the Royal Navy presents with symptoms of ADHD what is the process from there?
 - (3) In the past 12 months has the Royal Navy 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 Navy accept applicants with a diagnosis of ADHD?
 - (7) Further to (6) Does the Royal Navy 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."
- In addition to my previous questions sent earlier today, could you please address one more additional question:
- 11) Does having an ADHD diagnosis prevent you from applying for some roles within the Royal Navy, and if yes, which roles?'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

In response to part one of your request, as at March 2023, there were **265** serving Royal Navy (RN) personnel who had a formal diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in their medical record.

In response to part two of your request, RN personnel would undergo a medical assessment and subsequent occupational grading would follow.

In response to part three of your request, in the past 12 months ADHD assessments would have been carried out at Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH)

In response to part four of your request, between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, **16** RN personnel had a first appointment at DCMH for ADHD.

In response to part five of your request, between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2023, **27** RN personnel had a first appointment at DCMH for ADHD.

In response to part ten of your request, of the **27** RN personnel who had a first appointment at a DCMH for ADHD between April 2020 and March 2023, fewer than 5 were subsequently medically discharged within a year of their first appointment.

Medical discharge figures presented are for UK Regular RN personnel. 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.

In response to part eleven of your request, each case of diagnosed ADHD is assessed and dependant on the level of the candidate's condition, this will determine suitable roles within the RN.

Finally, in response to parts six, seven, eight and nine of your request, information can be found in the Joint Service Policy (JSP) 950 6-7-7- Joint Service Manual of Medical Fitness, in particular sections four and five. A copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

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

If you 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

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section