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**DMS Whittington Barracks**  
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**LICHFIELD**  
**WS14 9PY**

Mr John  
request-864xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

Your Reference: 86442-ad9b722f  
Our Reference: 20111013-FOI\_John\_Epipen-U  
Date: 13 October 2011

Dear Mr John,

Your correspondence dated 18 September 2011 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. You requested the following information:

- **How many service personnel are actually serving in HM Forces that have been issued with Epipens and have suffered anaphylactic shocks whilst in service.**

In line with NHS-IC protocol, prescribing data is released separately to diagnostic data. As a result, the response below does not link prescription to diagnosis by patient and so each element should be considered in isolation (see note b).

As at 1 September 2011, there were 189,300 Armed Forces personnel (Regular Forces and full time UK Non-Regular Forces, but excluding mobilised Reservists) of which; 188 Service Personnel have been identified as having a read code of "Anaphylactic Shock" on the Ministry of Defence Primary Healthcare Reporting System (Defence Medical Information Capability Programme (DMICP)), and 653 Service Personnel have been identified as having been prescribed either an "Epipen" or an "Anapen" on DMICP.

**Please note the following:**

- a. The data presented has been taken from the DMICP data warehouse and has not been validated against individual patient records, so should be regarded as provisional.
- b. Prescribing data can not be directly linked to the number of patients or the conditions for which the drugs were prescribed.
- c. 625 UK Armed Forces personnel do not have a DMICP record and therefore have not been included in the search for this data. To manually search records would lead to disproportionate costs.
- d. If diagnostic information relating to Anaphylactic shock is entered as free text within the medical record on DMICP (rather than entering its code), it will not be included in the figures presented.

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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>.

Yours sincerely,

HQ Surgeon General Secretariat