



# Ministry of Defence

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Our Ref: FOI2014/05874/73814/21/03

Your Ref:

[REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

06 November 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 October requesting the following information:

*"May I make a FOIA request regarding the British Army's Security Assistance Group (SAG):*

*1) What was the annual expenditure for the SAG and its sub-units (the MSSG, the 15 Psychological Operations Group, the Media Operations Group) for the years 2010-2014?*

*2) What is the a) established number of personnel b) current strength for the SAG HQ and each sub unit?*

*3) How many DFID and FCO staff members are attached to the SAG and its sub units?"*

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 within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The Security Assistance Group was only established on 1 September 2014, therefore there is no historic financial data for the period you have requested in your first question.

The unit is established for a total of 453 Military and Civilian personnel and the below table provides a breakdown of the current strength in the headquarters and the sub-units of the Security Assistance Group. The low strength is a reflection of the infancy of the unit but these numbers will increase while the unit continues to form up. Please note figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Unit/Sub-Unit	Strength as at 22 October 2014
Headquarters Security Assistance Group	50
15 Psychological Operations Group	50
Media Operations Group	70
Security Capacity Building Team	10
Military Stabilisation Support Group	120

There are no personnel from the Department for International Development or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office permanently attached to the Security Assistance Group, however the assistance of a team from the Department for International Development may be required during some Operations.

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, 1<sup>st</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,

Army Secretariat