



Ministry
of Defence



Ref. [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

27 October 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 2015 where you requested the below information;

I am referring the article on RAF Waddington website on the 9th October about 2503 Sqn RAF Regiment personnel involved in an archaeological dig to recover the parts of a spitfire.

I am a supporter of military history for all but I am struggling to reconcile how this work contributes to the future defence of the U.K. and would like to know much this has cost in terms of wages and other resources.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act) 2000.

We have now completed a search for the information you requested and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. The information you requested is below;

Cost of wages for all Royal Air Force (RAF) personnel for the five days spent on the archaeological dig = £1325

Cost for other resources over the five days = £448.10

Total Cost = £1773.10

Under Section 16 (the duty to provide advice and assistance) of the FOI Act, you may wish to be aware that the RAF participated in this activity through The Defence Archaeology Group and Operation Nightingale. The Defence Archaeology Group was founded in 2012 and developed

Operation Nightingale to utilise the technical and social aspects of field archaeology to help in the recovery of combat veterans from all three Services. In addition, The Defence Archaeology Group broadens military personnel skills through archaeological digs. There is a close correlation between the skills required by the modern soldier and those of the professional archaeologist. These skills include surveying, geophysics (for explosive devices or artefacts), site and team management, mapping, navigation and the physical ability to cope with hard manual work in often inclement weather conditions. Should you wish to find out more about the work of The Defence Archaeology Group and Operation Nightingale, please visit www.daguk.org.

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, 1st 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 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[Original Signed]

