Over the period November 2015 – January 2016 Army Sec received a large number of FOIs (referenced above) asking for information detailed in the body of the text below. For ease of reference these are being released collectively.

Dear

Thank you for your email/letter of November 2015 – February 2016 requesting the following information:

Ministerial Submission dated 28 Nov 2012 (min DPWV): ref Overpayment of RRP(F).
DG Pers letter to CE SPVA dated 20 Sep 2013: ref Overpayment of RRP(F).

Or

Defence Internal Audit Report on RRP(F) July 2013
I would also like to request access to the following document in the event that approval for its release is granted by Ministers:

Draft MinSub to Min DPWV recommending Write-off RRP(F) 31 Mar 2013

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

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

Due to the volume of documents I have copied them on to the enclosed disc.

Defence Ministers have decided that some information held by the Department falling within scope of your request is exempt from release under section 36 (Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is a qualified exemption and as such it was necessary for us to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

While release of information would increase public trust in the decision making process and provide accountability and transparency in the spending of public money, this is outweighed by the necessity for officials have the freedom to develop and discuss issues frankly in Ministerial Submissions. On balance, the public interest lies in non-disclosure of Ministerial Submissions therefore this information is being withheld.

Some other information is exempt under section 40 (Personal Information). Section 40 is an absolute exemption and is not subject to a public interest test. Where the documents refer to the number of personnel affected, we have redacted any number less than 5 to protect the potential identification of any individuals affected. This has been undertaken in accordance with the Government’s statistical convention.

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, 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, https://ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Army Secretariat