



Ministry
of Defence

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20 November 2017

Dear xxxxxxxxxxxx,

Thank you for your email of 22 October in which you requested the following information:

'Please provide a summary, by rank and Corps, of those positions in the Army that have been "detagged" from receiving Recruitment & Retention Payment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) (hereafter referred to as "EOD Pay"), and the positions that now attract EOD Pay instead, over the period 30th September 2016 to 1st November 2017.

In addition, please summarise those positions in the Army that attract EOD Pay where the recipient is either it conducting bomb disposal duties delivering instruction in order to inform and equip the soldier with the necessary skills to conduct such duties, but is commanding those who do provide such duties or instruction, or providing administrative or other support to those providing such duties or instruction.

Finally, at unit level, what soldiers are being employed outside of duties that involve the conduct of bomb disposal duties or instruction of Improvised Explosive Device Disposal but still receive EOD pay due to the administration that associates that individual with IEDD (their so-called "PID")? Similarly, how many soldiers are conducting bomb disposal duties or delivering instruction in IEDD, but do not and/or will not receive EOD pay as they are not administratively located in a job that attracts EOD pay (regardless of their day to day duties)?'

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

Q1. The table on the next page provides the number of Army positions that did attract Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Recruitment and Retention Payment (RRP) but no longer do (unflag) and those that did not previously attract EOD RRP but now do (flag). This has been broken down by Corps and Rank between the period 30 September 2016 to 1 November 2017. Under Section 40 of the FOIA (Personal Information), Officer and Other Rank positions have been grouped together as to break the figures down further would be disclosive. Section 40 of the FOIA is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Corps	Officers (Second Lieutenant – Lieutenant Colonel)		Other Ranks (Lance Corporal – Warrant Officer Class 1)	
	EOD RRP Flag	EOD RRP Unflag	EOD RRP Flag	EOD RRP Unflag
Royal Engineers	10	40	10	45
Royal Logistic Corps	~	0	15	50
Other	~	0	0	0

Notes/Caveats

- The 'other' row under Corps represents those positions that can be occupied by a qualified person from any capbadge.
- Figures have been rounded to nearest 5. '~' denotes figures fewer than 5.
- Rounding is necessary, as a means of disclosure control and the preservation of anonymity; it also improves the clarity of output and conveys an appropriate level of precision to users.
- These figures are single service estimates that have not been validated or subject to the same level of quality checks as official defence statistics.

Q2.&Q3. The relevant policy extract from Joint Service Publication 754: Tri-Service Regulations for Pay is included below:

“An individual is eligible to earn RRP if they occupy a role that meets either of the two definitions:

*05.0108. A **RRP Post** is one that requires the individual to undertake the specialist duties utilising their specialisation as required by the post specification.*

*05.0109. A **RRP-Related Post** is one that requires the individual to utilise practitioner knowledge and expertise in the activity concerned, but which does not necessarily require the individual to undertake the specialist activity.*

05.0112. In the event that a post formally loses a designation, the incumbent will retain RRP for one year, or until posted, whichever is earlier.”

There should therefore be no soldiers conducting bomb disposal duties or delivering instruction that do not receive RRP because they are not administratively located in a job, as this should be flagged as an RRP related post.

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

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