



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2019/03358

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

15 April 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 17 March requesting the following information:

"1 - If someone is awarded the Victoria or George Cross posthumously, can their spouse/next of kin claim the £10,000 annuity?

*If so, how long can this be claimed for (e.g. for the life of the spouse/next of kin).
If so, what are the rules governing such of claim.*

2 - As of 17/03/2019, how many people are in receipt of the VC/GC £10,000 annuity?

Please break this down into how many people for the VC and how many people for the GC".

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

I can confirm that the MOD holds information within the scope of your request.

In regard to Question 1, the annuity is payable only to the recipient of the medal so if the medal award is posthumous, no annuity is paid. Additionally, the annuity is paid annually in arrears, on the anniversary of the action for which the medal was awarded, so if an individual who is in receipt of the Victoria Cross (VC)/George Cross (GC) dies before the annuity is payable for that year, nothing is payable.

In regard to Question 2, there are 9 living holders of the VC. Information on GC is not held by the Ministry of Defence.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to contact the Cabinet Office regarding information about the GC holders.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, Ground 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 normally 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,

Defence People Secretariat