



**Ministry
of Defence**

Ref: FOI2014/ [REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated 13, 17 and 19 May in which you requested the following information:

What is the unit cost of training a serving member of the armed forces? What is the unit cost per annum for employing and maintaining a member of the armed forces?

The issue is that I had previously put in a FOI requesting for more in-depth costings of all of my previous requests from 13th-17th alike to the clarification you are asking for, however this was rejected as too time/cost intensive. To this end what I am really looking for is for you to give me something, at all, that is the reason for the vagueness to give you a freehand in providing me with any information relating to that subject.

This is why I have requested an average unit costing, as what would be ideal i.e. average unit costing on the recruitment and training of a single soldier from the British Parachute Regiment, Royal Marines Commandos, RAF Regiment, SAS, SBS followed by the average maintenance costing is not available option. Also ideally given is the costing of Special Qualification and promotion costings courses. I would even make do with the allocated annual amount to training and recruitment and courses in league with actual numbers of soldiers so I could create an approximation myself; wages from online available resources I can approximate myself.

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. I can confirm that the MOD does hold information within the scope of your request. Section 21 of the FOIA exempts the Department from providing information that is already reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. In this case information relating to the training costs of Service personnel may be accessed at the following links:

Official Records from Hansard:

12 June 2012: Column 448W

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120612/text/120612w0002.htm#1206137500013>

13 September 2011: Column 1146W

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110913/text/110913w0004.htm#1109142000049>

7 March 2011: Column 803W

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110307/text/110307w0003.htm#1103083000053>

16 November 2010: Column 733W

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101116/text/101116w0004.htm#1011174000027>

1 November 2010: Column 596W

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101101/text/101101w0004.htm#1011026000008>

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/search/?q=average+training+cost&from=&to=&person=&department=Defence&party=§ion=&column>

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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Personnel Secretariat