



Ministry  
of Defence

[REDACTED]  
Army Personnel Centre  
[REDACTED]  
Kentigern House  
65 Brown Street  
GLASGOW G2 8EX

Ref: FOI2016/00913

Telephone: [REDACTED]  
Facsimile : [REDACTED]  
E-mail: APC-Sp-ParlBus-Mailbox@mod.uk

[REDACTED] 17 February 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 21 January requesting the following information:

**Information regarding Regular Soldiers on attachment with the  
Military Stabilisation Support Group (MSSG)**

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

The information within the scope of your request does not exist. However under Section 16 of the FOIA I can confirm that MSSG has now been subsumed into 77 Brigade, which is an Army formation and operates as a single combined fully integrated structure harnessing Regular, Reserve and civilian skills. As part of 77 Brigade the information you requested is as follows:

1. Are there opportunities for Regular serving soldiers to work on attachment with the Military Stabilisation Support Group? – **As part of 77 Brigade, yes.**
2. How many PIDs exist in the MSSG for soldiers under the rank of Sgt? – **As part of 77 Brigade – 35**
3. What is the application process? – **see next paragraph**
4. Must applicants hold a minimum rank on application? – **Yes, Lance Corporal**
5. Are there any other entry standards? – **see next paragraph**

The answers to questions 3 and 5 are covered in the following paragraph taken from the 77 Bde capability and background brief.

*“Service in 77 Bde. As a result of the unique role of the Bde, the demands on individuals serving in it are significantly different to those which they may have been trained for, or*

had experience in. With the exception of generic posts within the Bde HQ, all applicants to the Bde (Regular and Reserve) will be assessed for suitability for the specific and varied types of employment within the Bde. The outcome of this assessment will then be passed to the Military Secretary (MS) to inform their assignment of candidates to appointments. Almost all posts in 77 Bde are E2<sup>1</sup> and are, therefore, boarded at either the No4 [Lt Cols], No5 [Capts and Majs], or No7 [OR6-9] boards, with the posts being advertised on the appropriate jobs lists. Anyone wishing to be considered for 77 Bde posts should add them in the normal manner to their posting preference proforma and must have passed a Bde Briefing and Assessment prior to the MS board sitting. Applicants should note that successful completion of the Bde briefing and assessment does not guarantee an assignment to 77 Bde. There are a number of posts within 77 Bde which are designated as Royal Navy (RN) and Royal Air Force (RAF) liability and, therefore, only open to personnel from those Services.

77 Bde briefing and assessment. All candidates [Regular, Reserve and civilian] are put through a series of assessments together. The assessments are designed to demonstrate the candidates' cognitive, emotional, creative problem-solving skills and their unorthodox potential. The event also offers candidates an opportunity to articulate what they feel that they might offer the Bde. A briefing pack is sent to each applicant prior to the assessment, this which includes a task that will take several hours to complete and must be completed prior to their arrival; other than this no preparation is required.

a. The dates for the Briefing and Assessment events for the next year are as follows:

Ser	Briefing and Assessment Event
1	Sat 5 Mar 16
2	Sat 14 May 16
3	Sat 3 Sep 16
4	Sat 8 Oct 16
5	Sat 5 Nov 16

b. In order to register your interest in joining the Bde, please contact SO2 Selection 77 Bde. If you are a Regular soldier or officer looking at a specific post advertised on a current jobs list [and therefore under a tight time constraint before the Board] please highlight this to the team.”

6. How many applications were received (from soldiers) in 2014 and of these, how many were successful? **No selection process took place in 2014 as 77 Bde was established in 2015.**
7. What is the typical length of service for an attachment to the MSSG? **Typically 24 – 36 months.**
8. What is the minimum commitment expected of a Reserve soldier in the MSSG? **For 77 Bde this would be 19 Man Training Days to achieve a bounty.**

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

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<sup>1</sup> An 'E2' post is a military post that may be filled by any soldier or officer from any cap-badge. In this case, it does not refer to the Civil Service grade of 'E2'.

independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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

Civil Secretary