



Ministry of Defence

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21 July 2014

Thank you for your email of 9 July requesting the following information:

"I would like to request some information on the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards:

- How many people have served in the Regiment since its amalgamation in 1971?
- What is the best estimate on how many people served in the Royal Scots Greys in its history from 1678-1971? (this might be impossible to estimate, I don't know?)

My intent is to attempt to calculate how many people in Scotland today have a direct familial connection with the Regiment. Any information that may be able to assist in this matter would be greatly appreciated."

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

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that the information you requested is not all held by the Ministry of Defence. The National Archive and may hold historical information from the First World War, though it may not be in the format you have requested and require a considerable amount of work to establish how many people had served in the Regiment. If you have not already done so, then you may wish to write contact the National Archive as follows:

The National Archives
Kew
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 4DU

Tel: (0) 20 8876 3444
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

For information held by the Ministry of Defence from the First World War it is not held in the format requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract Service records of all personnel who have served in the Regiment since that time would involve many weeks work for an individual to undertake.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Although I cannot provide the information you require, should you request numbers on strength for the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards as at 1 April each year from 1986 to 2014, this could be provided. This will not, however, provide the number of individuals who have served in the Regiment from 1986 as is only a snapshot of the numbers serving on the date in question in each year.

My understanding is that the Regiment also recruits from England, which would make your attempt to find how many people living in Scotland today have a familial connection to the Regiment more difficult.

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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd 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>.