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Ref: FOI2014/04690

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Dear

Thank you for your email of 5 October in which you clarified your request information as follows:

"My request relates to payments made in and around April 2010 including payments which were made to 40 Regt. Royal Artillery, the repayment showing on wage slips as "net public debt". I hope this clarifies matters and will result in the swift release of the requested documents."

This followed your original request, which was as follows:

"Please provide me with your decision document and directly related correspondence between those who directly took or directly informed the decision to recoup erroneous payments made to serving army staff and soldiers under the Financial Retention Incentive scheme."

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. The information you requested is attached. I have redacted all personal details, which are exempt information under section 40 (personal data) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is an absolute exemption and there is therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, <a href="http://www.ico.gov.uk">http://www.ico.gov.uk</a>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat