



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2016/08263

██████████ ██████████

Reply to: ██████████ ██████████ ██████████

3 October 2016

Dear ██████████ ██████████,

Thank you for your email of 4 September 2016, which requested the following information:

“Can you tell me what is the MOD's current policy on the payment of Northern Ireland Resident's Supplement?”

- Who is entitled to the payment?

- What is the policy of paying NIRS to reservists?

- Are there any circumstances in which NIRS would not be paid to reservists whose training unit is in Northern Ireland?

Can you outline any changes which have been made to the policy in the last 5 years?

How many individual cases are there of people having to pay back NIRS as a result of over-payments made by the MOD since the scheme was first put in place?

What is the highest amount an individual has had to pay back as a result of over-payment by the MOD?”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that the MOD holds information within the scope of your request.

A full copy of JSP 752 Tri-Service Regulations for Expenses and Allowances, Part 2 (Guidance) (V25.0 Jan 16) is available at the link below:

<http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/Personnel/Military/Remuneration/Pages/JSP752.aspx>

However as the latest version (V27.0 dated 1 Jul 16) is not yet available to members of the public online, extracts from Version 27 (1 July 2016) are provided herewith. The extracts are presented in the order of this FOI request:

*** Who is entitled to the payment?**

06.1104. Eligible Service Personnel.

The following personnel are eligible for the payment of NIRS:

- All Regular Service personnel or mobilised Reserve personnel serving on the assigned strength of a resident unit in NI.
- Reserve personnel undertaking Full Time Reserve Service, Additional Duties Commitments, NRPS commitments who are serving on the assigned strength of a resident unit in NI.
- Reserve personnel on the assigned strength of a resident unit in NI undertaking periods of training within NI under the terms of Sections 22 and 27 of RFA 96. These personnel are

eligible for the payment of NIRS for each full day that paid training is undertaken in Northern Ireland (a full day is any periods of duty of 2 hours or more that accumulates to 8 hours of training).

- Personnel attached on temp duty utilising an established NI PID for periods in excess of 183 days. Personnel in receipt of NIRS under these circumstances are ineligible for concurrent payment of continuous LSA for separation from their permanent Duty Station.
- Service women on Ordinary Maternity Leave (OML) retain NIRS if they remain in NI for the period of their OML.

*** What is the policy of paying NIRS to reservists?**

The following Reservists (serving on the assigned strength of a resident unit in NI) are eligible:

- Reserve personnel undertaking Full Time Reserve Service, Additional Duties Commitments, NRPS commitments who are serving on the assigned strength of a resident unit in NI.
- Reserve personnel on the assigned strength of a resident unit in NI undertaking periods of training within NI under the terms of Sections 22 and 27 of RFA 96. These personnel are eligible for the payment of NIRS for each full day that paid training is undertaken in Northern Ireland (a full day is any periods of duty of 2 hours or more that accumulates to 8 hours of training).

*** Are there any circumstances in which NIRS would not be paid to reservists whose training unit is in Northern Ireland?**

Notwithstanding the type of training terms mentioned above, the following groups are ineligible:

- Personnel serving in NI on temporary assignment of up to 183 days from parent units based outside NI.
- Medical/Dental officers undertaking pre-registration appointments or post-graduate courses at civilian or military hospitals in NI.
- CFAV personnel and Sponsored Reserves.
- RN personnel on board ship when on duty in NI coastal waters.
- Service women on Additional Maternity Leave (AML).

*** Can you outline any changes which have been made to the policy in the last 5 years?**

Since Sep 11 we have only made one policy amendment which involved inserting a Service Couple paragraph:

“06.1009. Service Couples. Where partners of a Service marriage or civil partnership are serving on a collocated permanent assignment in NI both PStat Cat 1S/C and 5S/C partners are eligible for the payment of NIRS. Payment of NIRS for the PStat Cat 1S/C or 5S/C Service person will however cease on the first day of temporary absence from NI.”

*** How many individual cases are there of people having to pay back NIRS as a result of over-payments made by the MOD since the scheme was first put in place?**

31,469 cases

*** What is the highest amount an individual has had to pay back as a result of over-payment by the MOD?**

£9,932.74

Please note that Tri Service pay data for December 2008, January 2009, March 2009 is not available . Available Tri Service pay data begins at October 2008, so the answers provided relate to NIRS Retro payments made from October 2008 onwards as recorded on the MOD Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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>.

Yours sincerely

Defence People Secretariat FOI