



# Ministry of Defence

Our Ref: FOI2015/03735

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 10th April 2015 requesting the following information:

1. How many 'war artists'\* (\* war artists: artists (civilian or within the military) who are asked to create art in response to a conflict) have been commissioned by the MOD in the last 15 years?
2. How much does the MOD spend on these commissions per year for the past 15 years
3. What is the purpose of war artists?
4. How many military photographers are employed by the MOD?
5. How much does the MOD spend on the military photographic units (RAF, RN and army)?
6. What is the purpose of the military photographic units?"

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, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below.

- 1 & 2. The MOD has not commissioned war artists in the last 15 years. However, war artists have been commissioned by the Imperial War Museum. You may wish to direct your enquiry regarding war artists to them.
3. Information not held.
4. On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014 there were 192 military photographers employed by the Ministry of Defence.
5. In the last financial year (2014/15) the Ministry of Defence spent £2,408,676 on military photographic units. This figure includes the procurement of photographic equipment, lease contracts, support costs and repairs for photographic equipment and image processing for the Navy, Army and RAF. This does not include personnel costs.
6. This information is covered by Section 21 (information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means) of the act and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/soldiers-first-the-role-of-army-photographers>

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the Imperial War Museum's FOI contact point is [FOI@IWM.org.uk](mailto:FOI@IWM.org.uk).

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](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.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,

DDC Secretariat Parliamentary