



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Defence Business Services
Secretariat Team
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
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Lancashire
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2015/03564

Email:

[REDACTED]

19 May 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 31 March, to the "what do they know" website, requesting the following information:

"I wish to know the individual journey claims made by NISGS (Northern Ireland Security Guard Service) managers at Unit manager and Area manager levels for the period January 2014 through to May 2014, with particular reference to claims over 10 miles.

To Summarise, in essence this would be

- 1. Number of journeys undertaken by each individual on dates through the period specified.*
- 2. Distances covered in each individual journey by each individual manager.*
- 3. Type of claim lodged i.e standard motor milage allowance or other."*

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

Some of the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of a absolute exemption under section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), as the information you have requested constitutes third party data.

Section 40(2) provides that personal data about third parties is exempt information if one of the conditions set out in section 40(3) is satisfied. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), disclosure of this information would breach the first principle as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Also some of the information you have requested falls within the scope of a 'prejudice' or harm-based exemption under Section 38 (Health and Safety) of the Freedom of

Information Act (FOIA). Section 38 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The balance of the public interest test concluded that whilst release would provide openness, transparency and reasonable access to government information in relation to the work of the Management of the NISGS. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information as release would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health or endanger the safety of any individual.

To provide a detailed breakdown of this information, an individual could reasonably establish the working patterns of NISGS staff and put the lives of individual managers at risk. It was felt that individuals could be identified from the information supplied and show where they were travelling throughout Northern Ireland. Experience has shown that pattern setting has been a major contributory factor to the targeting of members of the security forces and support staff resulting in death or serious injury.

However some of the information you requested can be found in the table summary below, which provides a summary of all mileage allowance types, total number of claims and total number of miles claimed by Unit Managers and Area Managers from the NISGS, between 1 January 2014 to 31 May 2014.

NISGS - Mileage Summary		
Mileage Allowance Type	Total number of claims	Total number of miles
Private Travel Rate	68	5395
Standard Rate Car	16	684
Overall Total	84	6079

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, 1st 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, nids.mco.org.uk.