



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services
Secretariat Team
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 3WP

Our Ref: FOI2015/07142



21 August 2015

Dear 

Thank you for your recent letter requesting the following information:

“My Association request that if it is possible you give us the total number of ex-RAF(M) LEPs who are receiving British Services Pension and presently are living in Malta. There are two categories of such pensioners, one of those who reached their pensionable service before 1979 and thus were pensioned of in Malta, and the other those who continued their pension service in the UK after 1979.

At this stage we need to know what the number amounts to in each case if possible.

If their age groups can be sub-divided in: 1. Under 70 years, 2. 70 to 80 years, 3. 80 to 90 years and those above 90 years”

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 the information you have requested is held. However, I have to advise you that we would not be able to answer your questions without exceeding the appropriate cost limit.

Section 12 of the FOI 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, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

In order to fully answer your questions we would have to locate the information, manually call and interrogate each pension file, which would take at least approximately 5 minutes per file, totalling 127 hours. At the rate of £25 per hour, this would equate to approximately £3,183 of effort, exceeding the appropriate cost limit.

However, under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), the Department is able to confirm the number of Locally Employed Personnel (Malta) in receipt of pension payments made by the Ministry of Defence. Regrettably, this information cannot be broken down into pre-1979, or post 1979, nor can it be refined to just those who served with the Royal Air Force.

The total number of Locally Employed Personnel (Malta) in receipt of pension payments by age is listed below:

Aged 70 or under = 14
Aged between 70 and 80 = 367
Aged between 80 and 90 = 383
Aged 90 or Over = 764

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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.