



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI2014/06481

Ministry of Defence

Main Building [REDACTED]

Whitehall

London SW1A 2HB

United Kingdom

Telephone:

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

09 November 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

20151109 – COMPENSATION PAYMENTS MADE TO CIVILIAN NATIONALS, UK SERVICE PERSONNEL AND THE FAMILIES OF UK SERVICE PERSONNEL AS A RESULT OF THE CONFLICTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ

Thank you for E-Mail of 17 July 2015 requesting the following information:

- “1. *How much has been paid out by the MoD since the present conflict in Afghanistan began to:-*
 - (a) *Afghans in compensation for those who had been injured? How many claims does this amount cover? What is the biggest sum paid out and what was it for, what was the smallest sum and what was it for?*
 - (b) *Afghans in compensation for being killed? How many claims does this amount cover? What is the biggest sum paid out for a fatality and the smallest sum for a fatality, for each please give the age and the sex of the person who died.*
 - (c) *Afghans in compensation for damage to property? What is the biggest sum paid out and what was it for, what was the smallest sum and what was it for?*
 - (d) *To members of the armed forces for injuries sustained in the conflict?*
 - (e) *To the families of the armed forces killed in the conflict?*
2. *Could you answer all the questions (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) but for claims in relation to Injury, fatality and property of Iraqis during the Iraq conflict and of armed forces personnel who served in that conflict.”*

The protracted delay in providing a response is very much regretted.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information requested relating to compensation payments arising from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

This information records the amount of compensation paid to Afghanistan and Iraq nationals and is extracted from the claims registers as supplied by the Area Claims Officers acting in the respective areas of conflict; copies of which are attached. Regrettably, the manner in which the data is held precludes us from determining with any degree of certainty in the vast majority of cases, the age and sex of the claimants, or of those injured or killed in the incidents giving rise to the respective claims. These extracts have been redacted in accordance with Section 40 of the FOIA to remove details such as names and addresses, etc as this is considered to be personal data.

In addition to those claims notified to the respective Area Claims Officers in these two theatres of operations, there are a number of claims from Iraq and Afghanistan nationals arising from allegations of unlawful detention and personal injury that are being handled by Ministry of Defence, Common Law Claims and Policy in the United Kingdom. The progression of these claims is at a comparatively early stage and the numbers of those from Iraq nationals number some 1,200 and of these, the number settled totals some 323 at a total value of £19.6M. The details of these settlements are subject to a confidentiality agreement between the Ministry of Defence and the Solicitors acting on behalf of the claimants and as such we are unable to provide details in relation to individual case settlements. In the case of such claims being pursued by Afghanistan nationals, numbering some 99 claims to date, the numbers where settlement has been agreed and payments of compensation have been made are such that, in order not to inadvertently reveal individual identities and in line with with Defence Statistics' rounding policy for health statistics (May 2009), and in keeping with the Office for National Statistics Guidelines, all numbers less than five are been suppressed so that numbers, and possibly identities cannot simply be derived from information supplied.

As regards compensation payments made to members of the armed forces and the families of members of the armed forces killed in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, the respective sums are as follows:-

Afghanistan	Paid to members of the armed forces	£11,625,279
	Paid to families	£ 9,801,797
Iraq	Paid to members of the armed forces	£15,735,773
	Paid to families	£ 7,016,421

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 us 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.gov.uk>.

I hope that this is helpful

Yours sincerely

COMMON LAW CLAIMS AND POLICY DIVISION