



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]

29 June 2015

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 29 May following my letter of 28 May stating that you would like us to answer the following question:

“The number of Armed Forces Widow/widowers pensions relinquished because of remarriage or cohabitation, year on year by financial year, between March 1973 and April 2005.”

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held. The data below provides the number of widows pensions paid under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme which were relinquished due to remarriage or cohabitation.

Tax Year	Number of pensions relinquished	Tax Year	Number of pensions relinquished
1987/1988	~	1997/1998	~
1988/1989	~	1998/1999	10
1989/1990	~	1999/2000	~
1990/1991	~	2000/2001	~
1991/1992	0	2001/2002	10
1992/1993	0	2002/2003	10
1993/1994	~	2003/2004	10
1994/1995	~	2004/2005	40
1995/1996	~		
1996/1997	10		

Unfortunately, no data is held prior to 1 April 1987 which is when our Paying Agents changed from paper records to a computerised system and no previous paper records are now held. Also, the data does not include the numbers of Army widows for those below Officer rank before September 2001, when our Paying Agents took over responsibility for the payment of these widows pensions.

In order to protect personal information governed by the Data Protection Act 1998, Section 40 (2) of the FOI Act has been applied to some of the information by supplementing numbers less than 5 with a tilda (~). 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. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10 in accordance with MOD rounding policy.

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.