



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Business Services  
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Ref: FOI2015/07493

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23 September 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 31 August 2015 requesting the following information:

*" I wish to request the following information from the Ministry of Defence (Civilian service) specifically, the travel claims submitted By all Northern Ireland Security Guard Service (NISGS) Managers at Band D ,C2 and C1 levels, from the period commencing June 2014 through to May 2015 inclusive To clarify my request,*

1. *I wish to request the information directly relating to all individual journeys which Paid mileage claims made by Northern Ireland Security Guard Service (NISGS) managers.*
2. *The specific type of claim lodged i.e. Private rate or Standard rate for a private Vehicle.*
3. *Individual total distances of each journey / period claimed (not locations) & the total mileage claimed per claim.*
4. *If the individual distance is not permitted due to concerns of personal safety, I request the combined total by each claimant (names not required), only individual claimant's totals, for the period I have specified.*
5. *I further request that each month is outlined separately for each calender month during the specified periods requested, i.e. totals for June 2014 totals for July 2014 etc. for each month over the period June 2014 to May 2015 which would equate to 12 individual records."*

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 all of the information in scope of your request is held.

Some of the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of an 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 therefore, there is 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 information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The public interest test concluded that release would provide openness, transparency and reasonable access to Government information in relation to the work of the Management of the Northern Ireland Security Guards Service (NISGS). However, the balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information, as if released it would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health or safety of an individual.

If a detailed breakdown of this information was provided, an individual could reasonably establish the working patterns of the NISGS staff and put the lives of individual managers at risk.

However, some of the information you requested can be found in the table below, which provides a summary of all mileage allowance types, total number of claims and total number of miles claimed by NISGS Unit Managers and Area Managers between June 2014 and May 2015 (inclusive).

<b>NISGS - Travel Claims Summary</b>		
<b>Mileage Allowance Type</b>	<b>No of Claims</b>	<b>Total Miles Claimed</b>
Private Travel Rate	134	12,437
Standard Rate Car	37	2,787
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>15,224</b>

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,

Defence Business Services