



Ministry of Defence

Defence Resources Secretariat
Ministry of Defence
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E-mail: DGFinance-SecParliamentaryFOI@mod.uk

Reference: FOI2015/08766

[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Date: 29 November 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Your correspondence dated 9 October 2015 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act on money given to military- and defence-related charities.

More specifically, I am requesting the following information:

- 1) Money given by the UK government in 2014 to bodies which carry out a charitable or similar function for current and/or former members of the UK armed forces, their families, dependants and wider communities*
- 2) Such bodies to include registered charities and other charitable bodies which may not be formally registered as charities*
- 3) Such bodies to also include bodies which are not strictly part of government, such as government agencies. Also non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), non-ministerial departments and advisory NDPBs - sometimes collectively referred to as Arms-Length Bodies or quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations (QUANGOs). This list is not exhaustive.*
- 3) The 'money' I refer to should include regular contributions, grants, loans or any other monetary means given to these bodies*
- 4) The same for 2013*
- 5) The same for 2012*
- 6) The same for 2011*
- 7) The same for 2010*
- 8) Decisions made on such funding for 2015 and further years*

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. The Government funds the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector through Grants in Aid (GIA), grants and normal commercial contract arrangements, information on which is not held centrally. Information about contracts with the VCSE sector are not

separately identified in central records. In addition, the Defence Bills Services Finance Liverpool (Bill Paying Authority) would need to interrogate their records using the name of every charity to be able to identify payments that have been made. To locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would involve at least some 35 man days of effort.

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

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. You might do this by reducing the time frame and/or limiting your request to information on GIA only.

Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, public authorities are required to provide advice and assistance while processing FOI requests, and I have therefore included some additional information below that you may find helpful.

Information relevant to your request is published in the MOD Annual Report and Accounts and you might find the information published in the latest edition at para 2.2.18, page 116 (Armed Length bodies); Page 143 (Grants in Aid) and Page 177 (for NDPBs and Grants in Aid) useful.

The MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2014/15 can be found at the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/462967/MOD_ARAc_combined_23_Sep_2015_print.pdf

Previous years MOD Annual Report and Accounts can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-annual-reports>

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>.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Resources Secretariat