



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Our Ref: FOI2015/08496

E-mail: JFC-HQSecretariat@mod.uk

Your Ref: FOI - Downing Street
photographers

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

29th October 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 30th September 2015 refining your original request for the following information:

- "1) How many MoD personnel/staff have been seconded to Downing Street as photographers over the past five years.*
- 2) The dates covered by the secondments*
- 3) The salary and other costs of the secondments"*

Part 3 of your request has been refined to:

"typical information on salary and expense entitlements for a seconded photographer"

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 some information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found below.

- 1) A photographer is regularly seconded from the Ministry of Defence to the Cabinet Office and is tasked with taking photographs of the activities undertaken by Cabinet Ministers, including those conducted by the Prime Minister. Seven photographers have been assigned to this duty in rotation since it began in February 2013.
- 2) Dates of secondments:
 - 13 February 2013 – 02 July 2013
 - 02 July 2013 – 30 September 2013
 - 15 October 2013 – 16 January 2014
 - 06 January 2014 – 09 May 2014
 - 05 May 2014 – 06 September 2014
 - 15 August 2014 – 09 June 2015
 - 07 September 2015 – On-going

3) Secondment salary and associated costs paid by the MOD:

- Seconded military photographers continue to receive their normal salary whilst seconded to the Cabinet Office. The annual salary range since 1 April 2015 is £27,324 – 38,214 depending on rank and time in rank.
- Military personnel on secondment to other Government Departments are also entitled to allowances such as:
 - Recruitment and Retention Allowance (London), currently £3.96 per day.
 - Civilian Clothing Annual Grant, currently £353 per year.
 - Local Overseas Allowance, rates vary between countries.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the MOD does not hold information on expenses paid by other Government Departments to seconded MOD staff.

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,

Secretariat Team
Joint Forces Command Headquarters