



# Ministry of Defence

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Our Reference: FOI2015/00487

10 February 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 13 January 2015 requesting the following information:

- 1] How many ex-service personnel are currently estimated to be resident in Northern Ireland.*
- 2] How many service personnel are currently resident in Northern Ireland.*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information within scope of your request is held. However, due to the wide ranging terms of your request, the cost limit has been breached, and is exempt under S12 (Breach of cost limit). This particularly pertains to Question 1, where it is estimated that 3-5 working days would be required to search for the information on ex-service personnel currently living in Northern Ireland. Additionally, this information has only been recorded for Service Leavers after 1973.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that information for Question 2 is available but you would need to clarify whether you required the number of Service Personnel residing in Northern Ireland at their home address (but could work outside NI) or Service Personnel residing at their workplace in NI (could live outside NI but still reside there for work). If the latter, you may wish to be aware that information for the number of Service Personnel stationed in NI was released via a Parliamentary Question last year, which can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-15/210829/>. If this information is not what you require, please clarify your request, and I will be happy to look at it again.

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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Personnel Secretariat