



Ministry of Defence



Ref: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

15 March 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 February 2016 requesting the following information;

I wish to submit an FOI to collate the following information. Trade Group 4 was established in 2006 after the amalgamation of Trade Groups 3 and 11. I would like to request the following numbers: How many ab initio TG4 personnel (excluding TG3/11) submitted an AIP Application between 2006 and July 2010? Of those who submitted applications and had them approved how many came from 90 Signals Unit?

Of those ab initio TG4 (excluding TG3/11) who submitted AIPs through 90 Signals Unit between 2006-Jul 2010 how many were highlighted as not meeting the criteria during the 2012 AIP audit and had debts raised against them?

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. However, we are unable to provide information regarding ab initio Trade Group personnel without exceeding the appropriate cost limit, as extracting this information would take at least 20 working days.

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 2012 Accelerated Incremental Progression (AIP) Audit only recorded the current Trade Group. Therefore, to provide ab initio information only would require reviewing the personnel files of all who submitted an AIP Application from Trade Group four (TG4) so as to determine whether they were ab initio TG4.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (the duty to provide advice and assistance), you may find it useful to know that applications submitted by TG4 personnel (encompassing ab initio TG4 and previous Trade Group three and Trade Group eleven personnel) are as follows:

- 1743 AIP applications were submitted by TG4 personnel between 2006 and July 2010.
- Of the 1743 applications, 498 AIP applications were submitted by 90 Signals Unit personnel.

- 108 of these applications did not meet the criteria set out in the 2012 AIP audit and have had debts raised against them.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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,

[Original Signed]

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.