



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building (06/K)
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
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Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

12 April 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 11 March in which you requested information about personnel from the University Royal Navy Units, University Officer Training Corps and University Air Squadrons.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). It has been assessed that the costs for providing this information will exceed the appropriate limit. Under Section 12 of the FOIA, we are not obliged to comply with your request as the appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information.

The Army has identified 19 Officer Training Corps units, each with between 134 and 316 personnel records. Each file would need to be retrieved, reviewed and any information extracted. We assess that an Army Major would need to spend at least some 490 hours (60 man days) of effort in reviewing personnel files. The Royal Navy and Royal Air Force would have to undertake a similar exercise for their respective University personnel records, combined, this would exceed the cost limit of £600.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA, information on the strength for University Officers' Training Corps are published in the following report:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/435444/20150615_TSP7Apr15-O.pdf

The Pay scales for University Cadet entrants are published in the following Armed Forces Pay Review Body report:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/505928/53949_Armed_Forces_Pay_Review_2016_Accessible.pdf

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,

Defence People Secretariat