



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2016/10238

E-mail: ArmySec-group@mod.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk



13 December 2016

Further to my letter to you of 28 November, I can confirm that the Public Information Test (PIT) in relation to your request for the following information has been completed and the information which can be released is enclosed:

- Q1. How many allegations are being investigated under Operation Northmoor?
- Q2. How many complainants do the allegations relate to?
- Q3. How many allegations have been made against Royal Marines? Please provide details of what units the marines belong to.
- Q4. How many allegations have been made against soldiers? Again, please provide details of the units of each soldier.
- Q5. How much money has been allocated for the investigation to date?
- Q6. How much money has been allocated to fund the operation over the next financial year?
- Q7. How long is the investigation expected to take?

Some information held by the Department falling within scope of your request is however exempt from release under sections 30(1)(Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities) and 40(2) and 40(3)(a)(i) (Personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act and is therefore withheld. The decision to withhold the information is based on the need to protect the confidentiality of the Royal Military Police investigative process as releasing it would likely to be prejudicial to it.

The exemptions at section 40 of the Act are absolute exemptions and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

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, Ground 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 1. How many allegations are being investigated under Operation Northmoor?**
 - Op NORTHMOOR comprises 643 complaints. A total of 144 cases have been discontinued or recommended for discontinuation by the investigators, leaving a total of 497 on-going investigations.
- 2. How many complainants do the allegations relate to?**
 - There are 159 individual complainants.
- 3. How many allegations have been made against Royal Marines? Please provide details of what units the marines belong to.**
 - Decline to answer under Section 30 – Investigations and Proceedings.
- 4. How many allegations have been made against soldiers? Again, please provide details of the units of each soldier.**
 - Decline to answer under Section 30 – Investigations and Proceedings.
- 5. How much money has been allocated for the investigation to date?**
 - By the end of Financial Year 2016/2017, there is a forecast spend of approx. £11m (this includes IT, infrastructure and admin costs).
- 6. How much money has been allocated to fund the operation over the next financial year?**
 - Detailed funding provision for Financial Year 2017/2018 has not yet been allocated.
- 7. How long is the investigation expected to take?**
 - We cannot predict the duration of these investigations, though we expect the work of the NORTHMOOR team is likely to continue for at least another two years.