



Ministry of Defence

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

Our Reference: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated [REDACTED] in which you requested the following information:

1. How many MOD civilians were given a state honour in 2016?
2. What is the average length of service of an MOD employee that receives an honour?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. I can confirm the MOD does hold some data in scope of your request. In regard to Question 1 we have interpreted MOD civilians, as civilians who give service to Defence. This information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. The lists of people who have received honours are published at New Year and on the Queen's official birthday in June. It is already in the public domain at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/honours-reform-and-operation>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-year-honours-2016-for-service-personnel-and-defence-civilians>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2016-queens-birthday-honours-recognise-154-military-and-civilians-in-defence>

In regards to Question 2 I can advise the MOD does not hold data regarding average length of service of an award holder. Honours are available at all stages of a career for those making outstanding or enduring contributions to policy development and implementation and should be, as far as possible, linked to or made very soon after specific achievements.

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