



# Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2017/01872

## Defence Business Services

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 5 February 2017 requesting the following information:

*The total number of the following medals issued, to date*

1. *General Service Medal 1962, with the following clasps*
  - o *Northern Ireland*
  - o *Air Operations Iraq*
2. *Operational Service Medal (OSM) Sierra Leone*
3. *OSM Afghanistan*
4. *OSM DROC*
5. *Iraq Medal 2003, showing a breakdown of medals with and without clasps*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Whilst we hold the data requested, we are unable to answer question 1 without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. This is because the information is held on individual medal cards that predate the electronic system.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate cost limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated costs of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it. In order to

answer question1, we would have to manually go through 448 books containing on average 800 cards. It is estimated that it would take one hour to go through each book at £25 an hour, which equates to £11,200.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) the MOD can confirm the following medals have been issued to date:

Operational Service Medals Sierra Leone	-	6,788
Operational Service Medal (OSM) Afghanistan and clasps	-	155,155
Operational Service Medals for the Democratic Republic of Congo	-	110
Iraq Medal with clasp	-	37,064
Iraq Medal without clasp	-	92,286

It should be noted that the figure for the Operational Service Medals for Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo reflect the total number to the best of our knowledge. This is because the Ministry of Defence Medal Office only holds complete Army and RAF records from 1995 and Royal Navy/Royal Marines records from 2005 onwards. 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

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)