



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref. 2018/5840

[REDACTED]

18 May 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 April requesting information about RAF Mountain Rescue activity. You requested the following:

"It is my intent to undertake geospatial analysis of RAF Mountain Rescue incidents over the period 1 Jan 2009 - 31 Dec 2017 in order to determine what impact, if any, there has been since the realignment of UK SAR Helicopter base locations and the introduction of new helicopter platforms.

I am interested in the raw data for incidents involving RAF Mountain Rescue such as the date and time of dispatch, dispatch location, type of incident, number and type of casualties etc.

As part of my ethical approval all data I handle will be anonymised for my dissertation if it has not already been done by the time I receive it.

Is this data available through your department?"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have now completed a search of our paper and electronic records for the information requested and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is held.

However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without far exceeding the appropriate limit. Section 12 of the FOI 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, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. It is not possible at this stage to make a detailed estimate of how long it will take to conduct this work. However, given the period of time in question and the level of detail you are looking for it is very clear that the estimate would far exceed the £600 limit.

Section 16 of the FOIA requires a public authority to offer advice and assistance on how to reduce or refine a request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit by narrowing or limiting its scope. Without further precise details of what you require, it is difficult to advise you. However, in this instance I suggest that initially, you may wish to reduce the period covered to perhaps, one specific year and give precise details of all the information you require.

You may also wish to note that statistics on RAF Mountain Rescue activity are publicly available for the period 2010-15 at the following link and may be helpful in your dissertation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/military-search-and-rescue-annual-statistics-index>

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely


Secretariat 3a1
Air Command