



Ministry  
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2017/04057/75704/10/06

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[REDACTED]

26 May 2017

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Reference:

FOI2017/04057/78704&FOI2017/07364/78750-10/06 dated 27 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to my previous letter at the Reference above, where I stated my intention to treat your two FOI requests dated 29 March and 5 April as one request, it has now become apparent it would be beneficial to treat the two requests separately. Therefore in response to your email dated 29 Mar in which you requested the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000:

Please could you tell me, in each of the last five years, how many of the army's Early Service Leavers were aged under 18 when they joined up? And how many of them were in employment after six months?

I previously advised you whilst the Department holds the information requested, I had assessed that some of the information could fall under Section 22 of the Act, (information intended for future publication). Following further investigation of the information held I have to advise you that Section 22 does not apply as the relevant information the Department publishes does not contain the level of detail requested. However, I can inform you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would take at least four working days of extraction and analysis of data.

Section 12(1) of the 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, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. If you could reduce your request, for example by shortening the timeframe, we may be able to help you further.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act, duty to provide advice and assistance, I can confirm that the information which answers the first element of your request has been released to you under


Reference FOI2017/04364/78752/10/06 dated 25 May 2017. Furthermore, the Career Transition Partnership annual statistics publication contains information relating to Early Service Leavers and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/career-transition-partnership-ex-service-personnel-employment-outcomes-financial-year-201516>

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](mailto: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,

  
Army Sec



Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2017/03306

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United Kingdom

E-mail address: [redacted]  
Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email of 13 March in which you asked for the following information:

*I am writing my PhD in international criminal law at Saarland University, Germany on the topic of minors who commit international crimes and the minimum age of criminal responsibility in international criminal law.  
In this context, I was wondering if there are statistics available on how many minors are currently employed in the British Army.*

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

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds this information. The information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2016>

Table 3 - Strength of UK Regular Forces by Age and Gender

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-R@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-R@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.

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Yours sincerely,

[redacted]  
Army Sec

11 April 2017