



# Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2018/07071

[REDACTED]

Reply to: [REDACTED]

20 June 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 24 May 2018 requesting the following information:

*"Please can you tell me the total cost to the public purse of Armed Forces Day.*

*Has any work been carried out to see if the armed forces think it is a worthwhile exercise at all levels not just top brass and recruiters?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act). The Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information relevant to your request.

Information relating to overall costs is not held centrally, as local military authorities work with their relevant councils/Local Authorities to determine the level of support, meaning the provision of military personnel and equipment is determined at unit/regional level. Commanding Officers consider the operational commitments of their units when accepting invitations to local events.

Initiatives such as Armed Forces Day are kept under constant review to ensure they meet Defence objectives. The aim of Armed Forces Day is to provide the public with the opportunity to show appreciation for the Armed Forces; recruitment is not a stated aim, although inevitably the increased focus on the Armed Forces showcases the career opportunities on offer in the Armed Forces.

Over 300 events took place in 2017, with attendance across the country estimated to exceed 1,250,000, based on the total of the estimated visitor numbers provided by each of the grant applicants. You may also be interested to note that our most recent polling found that Armed Forces Day led to Regular Service personnel feeling more valued in their service.

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.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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,

Defence People Secretariat FOI