



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Our Reference: FOI2017/10218

Email: [REDACTED]

20 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email addressed to [REDACTED] at the Ministry of Defence dated 19 September 2017 in which you have requested the following information:

“To whom it may concern at Independent Medical Expert Group,

Individuals have a right, commonly referred to as a subject access request (SAR), created by section 7 of the Data Protection Act. I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding your processing of subject access requests:

1. How many subject access requests did you receive the identifying paperwork for and process in 2014?
2. How many subject access requests did you receive the identifying paperwork for and process in 2015?
3. How many subject access requests did you receive the identifying paperwork for and process in 2016?
4. How many subject access requests you rejected in 2014?
5. How many subject access requests you rejected in 2015?
6. How many subject access requests you rejected in 2016?
7. What was the average cost for you to process a subject access request in 2014?
8. What was the average cost for you to process a subject access request in 2015?
9. What was the average cost for you to process a subject access request in 2016?
10. How much do you charge an individual to process a subject access request?”

Firstly, I should apologise for the delay in writing to you. Unfortunately, your original email was not received until 17 October due to IT problems.

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD, and I can confirm that the Independent Medical Expert Group (IMEG) has received no subject access requests and therefore holds no information in scope of your request.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to be aware that the Independent Medical Expert Group (IMEG) advises the Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans on medical and scientific aspects of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and related matters. The IMEG is responsible for:

- investigating the issues on which advice is requested reaching conclusions and making recommendations based on evidence
 - providing evidence comprising independent, published, peer-reviewed scientific and medical literature
 - consulting other experts and inviting interested parties to submit relevant research (but IMEG does not commission research) •
- IMEG do not look at individual cases.

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-FOIIR@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,

(Original Signed)
Defence People Secretariat