



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building (06/N)
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2017/07732

Telephone: 020 7218 9000

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

1 September 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 2 August 2017 in which you requested the following information:

Under the FOI Act, can you provide details of the number of service personnel who have been medically discharged in the last five years

Can you also supply details of personnel who have appealed against the medical discharge and how many appeals were successful.

Could you also provide details of the number of personnel who were suffering from PTSD who were medically discharge and how many appealed. I would also like details of the outcome of the appeal.

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

I am writing to advise you that your request is considered exempt under Section 12 of the FOI Act. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. This limit is specified in FOI regulations and for central Government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The Department will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit because to review five years of Medical Employability Boards to determine those with PTSD as a primary or secondary illness would take the Royal Navy alone over the £600 limit.

Under section 16 of the FOIA, public authorities are required to provide the requester with advice and assistance while processing their request, especially where a request for information exceeds the appropriate cost limit. The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit, such as reducing the time frame. You may wish to note that PTSD can be either Operational or General PTSD. In addition some information on medical discharge appeals is held locally by a number of Regional Occupational Health Teams (ROHT).

Finally, you may also wish to be made aware the MOD publishes statistics concerning service personnel medical discharges which can be found at the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-service-personnel-medical-discharges-financial-year201617>

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,

Defence People Secretariat