



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Defence Business Services Secretariat
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Tomlinson House
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Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2018/09504

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

25 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 16 July 2018 requesting the following information:

"I am seeking some information concerning the Arctic Star medal, specifically with respect to how many people were/are eligible to receive it and which organisations/services they belonged to (Merchant Navy, RN, RAF, Army, other countries' armed forces, etc); I am seeking only statistics, not personal information.

Can you advise whether I should submit a Freedom of Information request or whether you would be able to assist me without the need to go down this route?

The reason I am seeking this information is that, as a former UK Naval Attaché in Russia, I have been talking to a number of interested parties who want to continue to commemorate the achievements of those who served in the Arctic in WWII and this information would be most useful in deciding exactly what we should do."

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

A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. Unfortunately, we do not know how many people are eligible to receive the Arctic Star medal. The process is initiated by self-nomination and eligibility will only be assessed once a formal application is received.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I have provided the statistics of the number of Arctic Star medals issued as at 19 July 2018 below:

Service/Organisation	Number of Arctic Star's Issued
Royal Navy	15980
Merchant Navy	1260
Royal Marines	538
Army	290
Royal Air Force	216
Royal Fleet Auxiliary	5
Royal Canadian Navy	247
Royal Australian Navy	77
Royal New Zealand Navy	24
TOTAL	18637

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

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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.gov.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 normally 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,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]