



# Ministry of Defence

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Thank you for your e-mail of 6 December 2017 to the Ministry of Defence.

You asked:

- “1. How many individuals who served in the King's African Rifles (KAR) have contacted the MoD pensions agency requesting a pension that had not been paid for their military service?”*
- 2. Of the total number in question one, how many of these individuals has the MoD pensions agency replied to?*
- 3. Of the total number in question one, how many of these individuals has the MoD pensions agency recommended to contact the Kenyan Finance Ministry's Pensions Department in order to obtain their pension?*
- 4. When was the last date that the MoD pensions agency received a request for an unpaid pension from a former KAR serviceman?*
- 5. Which nationalities have contacted the MoD pensions agency requesting a pension for their military service in the KAR?*
- 6. Since July 1957, how many former KAR servicemen has the MoD pensions agency paid a pension to?*
- 7. When was the last date that the MoD pensions agency paid a pension to a former KAR serviceman?”*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because we are unable to identify pension enquiries from members of the KAR electronically and to extract information in scope of your request would involve a manual check of many thousands of files requiring at least 10 minutes per file.



Section 12 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.

However, under Section 16 (advice and assistance) of the FOIA, you may be interested to know that the KAR had several Battalions, each of which recruited from a different nation. These Battalions became part of that nation's Army following independence. As each nation gained independence from Britain at different times, the Regiment broke up over a number of years. In terms of recruitment, the majority of individuals recruited into colonial force regiments were citizens of that colony, and not British subjects. The KAR was managed by British officers, seconded from the British Army.


As well as the physical transfer of people, liabilities for pensions also transferred to that nation. The vast majority of documents and records were also transferred at this point. It may be possible that further information could be obtained by contacting the Kenyan National Archives.

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](mailto: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 <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.

