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FOI2018/10792

31 August 2018

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 21 July 2018 requesting the following information:

"We have been funded by Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT) to conduct a research study on the barriers and challenges to employment for older service leavers (aged 50+). We are now in the process of writing the literature review, which we would also like to combine with some statistics on the employment outcomes for this group.

Your annual CTP survey (Career Transition Partnership (CTP) Annual Statistics: UK Regular Service Personnel Employment) is ideal to obtain this data and I was wondering whether you could provide me with the raw data. We are interested only in the group aged 50+, I saw from your tables that are publicly available on gov.uk (Table 5f) that these are 133 people (19% from your sample)."

After receiving a response to this request (FOI 2018/10031), you sent a second email dated 21 August 2018, requesting the following information:

"What we need is the grouped answers for the 50 and 50+ group, not the raw data. My request in this form should not be in breach with the data protection rules."

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 Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Information you have requested on the reasons for economic inactivity broken down by respondents 50 years of age and respondents aged 51 years and over have been withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act to reduce the possible inadvertent disclosure of individual identities. The Section 40(2) exemption has been applied in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. This is also in line with JSP200 Statistics Disclosure Guidelines. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

**Table 1: Reasons for economic inactivity<sup>1</sup> among UK Regular Service Personnel<sup>2</sup> who used a billable CTP service, by age at exit, numbers<sup>3</sup> and percentages<sup>4</sup>**

1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017<sup>5</sup>

Reason for economic inactivity	50 years and over			50 years			51 years and over		
	Number	%	95% CI	Number	%	95% CI	Number	%	95% CI
Looking after family	~	~	~ - ~	0	0	0 - 0	~	~	~ - ~
Education/ Training/ Volunteering	8	6	2 - 10	~	~	~ - ~	~	~	~ - ~
Medical reasons	~	~	~ - ~	0	0	0 - 0	~	~	~ - ~
Travelling/ Abroad	6	4	1 - 8	0	0	0 - 0	6	5	1 - 9
Retired	51	38	31 - 46	4	29	6 - 51	47	40	31 - 48
Other <sup>6</sup>	64	48	40 - 56	9	64	41 - 88	55	46	38 - 55

**Data sources: JPA and Right Management**

1. As self-reported by Service leavers who were economically inactive six months after leaving Service.
  2. Outflow from the UK Regular Forces including Gurkhas but excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel and mobilised reservists. Figures do not include promotion from ranks to officers or flows between Services, deaths, or flow to long term absentee.
  3. Unweighted numbers are presented.
  4. Percentages have been weighted to account for non-responder bias.
  5. Service leavers who left the UK Armed Forces between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017.
  6. 'Other' includes Service leavers who were not actively seeking employment, e.g. on a career break, and those whose reason for economic inactivity was unknown.
- ~ Figure has been suppressed in line with JSP 200 (April 2016). The suppression methodology has been applied to ensure individuals are not inadvertently identified dependent on the risk of disclosure. Numbers fewer than three have been suppressed. Where there was only one cell in a row or column that was fewer than three, the next smallest number has also been suppressed so that numbers cannot simply be derived from totals.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) you may wish to note the following:

The CTP supports Service leavers in their transition from military to civilian life through a range of career and employment support services including workshops, one-to-one guidance and job finding support. There are three main employment outcomes: employed, unemployed and economically inactive (not in employment, but not actively looking for work).

The MOD publish annual Official Statistics on estimated employment outcomes, six months after leaving Service, for UK regular and Gurkha Service personnel who leave the UK Armed Forces and access employment support provided by the Career Transition Partnership (CTP). The latest publication, presenting estimated employment outcomes for 2016/17 Service leavers, can be found on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/career-transition-partnership-ex-service-personnel-employment-outcomes-statistics-index>

The six-month follow-up response rate for 2016/17 Service leavers who used CTP services was high (81%), though a non-responder bias was determined. Therefore, responses were weighted by Service, Rank and age group to correct for any bias caused by over or under-representation. Numbers are presented as unweighted counts and percentages have been weighted. For further details on the non-responder bias how the weights were calculated and applied to the data, please see the accompanying Background Quality Report, published on the Gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/career-transition-partnership-ex-service-personnel-employment-outcomes-statistics-background-quality-report>

Confidence intervals have also been provided as a measure of the likely variation of the given statistic.

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

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