



Ministry
of Defence

Secretariat
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03 August 2018

Ref: FOI/2018/08968

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 5 July 2018 requesting the following information:

I would like information regarding the substitute service single accommodation (SSSA). 1) For the past two years please may you please provide me with: a) The number of service personnel in SSSA, b) The total number of properties, c) The total cost to the taxpayer (after all bills and fees are paid). 2) I would like the same results outline in 1a-c but broken down for the Hampshire area. 3) If this is available, please may I have a breakdown by of Hampshire military bases and how many people are in receipt of SSSA.

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 (MOD) and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held as follows:

1) For the past two years please may you please provide me with:

a) The number of service personnel in SSSA.

8,379

b) The total number of properties

3,792

c) The total cost to the taxpayer (after all bills and fees are paid).

- Financial Year 2016/17 - £52,837,006.16
- Financial Year 2017/18 – this information is not yet available.

2) I would like the same results outline in 1a-c but broken down for the Hampshire area.

a) The number of service personnel in SSSA.

176

b) The total number of properties

104

c) The total cost to the taxpayer (after all bills and fees are paid).

- Financial Year 2016/17 - £998,877.59
- Financial Year 2017/18 - £648,968.36

3) If this is available, please may I have a breakdown by of Hampshire military bases and how many people are in receipt of SSSA.

Unit	Personnel
Aldershot - Recruitment Group	<10
Aldershot/Farnborough	11
HQ11 Brigade & HQ South East	<10
Thorney Island (Portsmouth)	<10
Middle Wallop	<10
Andover	47
Odiham	<10

Where the number of personnel in the table above is less than 10 the figure has been withheld in line with the absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) FOIA, as to release the actual figures would risk individuals being identified. Section 40(2) has been applied to this information in order to protect personal information as governed by the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. 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.

Under Section 16 FOIA (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that we are able to provide costs for individual areas, such as Hampshire, sooner than the overall cost of substitute accommodation as the overall costs include additional fees and therefore require further internal verification before being finalised.

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). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing 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

DIO Secretariat