



Ministry of Defence

Defence Business Services
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DBS/SEC/FOI2019/00575 [REDACTED]

E-mail: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

12th February 2019

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 January 2019 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“ 1. Number of substantive Civilian Security Officer Grade 4 Positions in the Northern Ireland Security Guard Service

2. Number of Civilian Security Officer Grade 4 Positions occupied by Members recorded/identifying as Roman Catholic by faith designation.”

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 all information in scope of your request is held.

However, I have to advise you that Section 40 (2) (personal Information) of the FOIA has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by Data Protection legislation.

In response to Question 1, I can confirm that there are 33 active Civilian Security Officer Grade 4 positions in the Northern Ireland Security Guard Service.

Turning to Question 2, I can confirm that less than 10 personnel have their community recorded as Roman Catholic. The precise number has been withheld under Section 40(2) (personal information) of the FOIA for the reasons stated above. 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.

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 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,

DBS Secretariat Team