



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Ref: ArmySec13/04
FOI2019/05671

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[REDACTED]

30 May 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 13 May in which you requested the following information:

Could you please confirm how many FOI requests you received in 2018 and how many staff (FTE) were employed to answer the requests.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held and has been provided below. In answer to your request, we have interpreted 'enjoyed' as 'employed' and 'FTE' as 'Full Time Equivalent'.

In 2018 Army Command received 653 FOI requests. Please note that this figure is a single service estimate and is not an official statistic produced by Defence Statistics. The number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff who were employed to answer FOI requests by the Army Command in 2018 is not held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the majority of the FOIs received by Army Command are answered by personnel for whom this work is part of their role, along with working on other Parliamentary and public correspondence.

As well as the Army, Navy and Air Force, FOIs received by the MOD are answered by other groups within the MOD, for example; Defence Equipment and Support and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. The number of FOIs provided above does not include requests where Army Command staff have provided input to FOIs answered by other groups within the MOD. If the information requested in an FOI is held within a variety of areas within the MOD, then input may be provided from across the Department to the group who answers the request.

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

Army secretariat