



Ministry
of Defence

Directorate of Judicial Engagement Policy

Defence Inquests Unit

Ministry of Defence

Main Building

Whitehall

London SW1A 2HB

United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2019/07544

Telephone:



07 July 2019

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 01 July 2019 requesting the following information:

“Between 1 July 2016 to 1 July 2019, how many inquests where a service personnel or candidate has died in the UK have been adjourned at MOD’s request within 1 month prior to the inquest start date.

In each case, please specify whether the death occurred in training, exercise, selection or other activity

If this request would exceed the cost limit, please narrow the scope to adjournments between 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019.”

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested.

However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer the first part of your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve, extract the information in scope of your request for Inquests adjourned by MOD between 1 July 2016 to 1 July 2019 would involve the manual searching of some 1,344 physical inquest case records, and the recall of files from off-site archives as necessary, would take at least 5 working days of effort.

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.

We can answer the second part of your request, which limits the scope of your question to Inquest adjournments by MOD between 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

There is one Inquest (within the requested timeframe of between 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019) into the death of a member of the military.

The Inquest was scheduled to be held between 18 March 2019 – 5 April 2019. This Inquest was adjourned by the Coroner in a letter to all Interested Persons dated 26th February 2019, at the request of the MOD.

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,

DJEP-DIU-Group