Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2019/12545

[redacted]

29 November 2019

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email of 1 November 2019 requesting the following information:

> *"I wish to make a FOI request for the following information The number of serving armed forces personnel subject to the sex offenders' register for the current year.*
> *And the same figure for the past five years".*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The Department has undertaken a search for information, however, information for 2018 is exempt under Section 21 of FOIA (Information Reasonably Accessible to the Applicant by Other Means) as it is published at the following address:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758889/04537.pdf

There are currently two serving Armed Forces personnel on the sex offender register.

In regard to information dating back to 2014, the sex offender register is held on the VISOR tool, which is a live tool for the management of sex offenders, used by all UK Police forces, and cannot be searched for historic information.

Under Section 16 of FOIA (Advice and Assistance) it may be helpful if I explain that any Service personnel convicted of a sexual offence and subject to any requirements as set out in the Sexual Offences Act (SOA) 2003 (more recognised as the Sex Offenders Register (SOR)) will be discharged in all but exceptional circumstances. If a decision is taken to retain an individual, but the conditions stipulated in the notification requirements are such that it makes career management of the Service person unviable, then application for discharge or termination would be considered. Service personnel may also be placed on the sex offender register as part of their sentence. A link to Court Martial results is published at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/court-martial-results-from-the-military-court-centres

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 CIOFOI-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,

Defence People Secretariat FOI