



# Ministry of Defence

## J9 FOI Secretariat

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Reference: FOI 2019/06811(182)

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25 July 2019

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2019 which requested the following information:

*"I would like to know, under the terms of the FOI Act, how many Afghan locally employed civilians (LECs) have received help from the British government in each of the past three years.*

*Please detail the number of interpreters who have benefited from:*

*a) the redundancy scheme, including how many interpreters have benefited from each of the following:*

- the "financial offer" (if possible, including details of individual amounts)*
- the "training offer"*
- the "relocation offer"*

*b) the intimidation scheme, including how many interpreters have benefitted from each of the following:*

- advice to you on increased security measures (e.g. varying working hours, route to work, work location or changing phone number)*
- supporting you in taking time off from your current job to reduce the threat*
- funded relocation within Afghanistan*
- relocation to the UK"*



Your correspondence has been treated 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, and we can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below.

*Please detail the number of interpreters who have benefited from:*

*a) the redundancy scheme, including how many interpreters have benefited from each of the following:*

- the "financial offer" (if possible, including details of individual amounts)*
- the "training offer"*
- the "relocation offer"*

830 LECs took up the scheme. 23 were excluded for a variety of reasons such as resignation, security concerns, disciplinary termination from employment. 454 opted for relocation with 220 opting for the financial offer and 156 choosing the training and finance offer; these figures include those eligible from the FCO and DfID. These figures also include a small number who were not interpreters but were eligible for relocation. The MOD does not know the grades or job roles of those eligible from the FCO and DfID.

It is not possible to give the individual amounts received, however the amounts were based on an individual's basic monthly gross salary, excluding any allowances; salaries could range from US\$274 to US\$1,144. Prior to 2017 the amounts paid to the individuals were not clearly broken down in records, however since 2017 the MOD has paid approximately US\$157,106 to individuals on the financial offer.

Please note, as a matter of due diligence MOD is currently reviewing all LECs who were eligible for the EGS to ensure that we have correctly recorded their choices. This may result in a slight variance to the quoted numbers, however we expect that variance to be minimal.

*The intimidation scheme, including how many interpreters have benefitted from each of the following:*

- advice to you on increased security measures (e.g. varying working hours, route to work, work location or changing phone number)*
- supporting you in taking time off from your current job to reduce the threat*



- funded relocation within Afghanistan
- relocation to the UK"

Every LEC who contacts the Intimidation Investigation Unit is offered security advice based on their circumstances. The Department does not record any occasions on which advice is refused, therefore we are unable to say with accuracy how many have received security advice.

The Department does not, as a matter of course, record whether LECs were placed on administrative leave whilst their claims were being investigated to reduce the threat and therefore we cannot say with accuracy how often this may have happened. However, we are aware of two cases where the LECs were put on paid administrative leave during the investigation of their claims.

Since 2016 4 LECs have received funded relocations within Afghanistan. To date, no LECs have been relocated to the UK through the Intimidation Policy.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development may be able to assist you with your questions; their contact emails for FOIs are [foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk](mailto:foi-dpa.pmcs@fco.gov.uk) and [foi@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:foi@dfid.gov.uk).

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](mailto: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,

PJHQ J9 FOI Secretariat