



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2019/11079

E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

25 October 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 26 September in which you requested the following information:

- 1) The latest total cost of investigating the disappearance of Katrice Lee from a British Army base in Paderborn on November 28, 1981, aged two.
- 2i) The cost of the trip to Paderborn in April 2018 to carry out a dig for Katrice Lee's remains.
ii) Please could this include a breakdown of the expense incurred on the trip including flights/hotels/sundries/subsistence.
iii) The number of officers who travelled to Paderborn to carry out the dig. Please could this include the rank of the officers.
- 3) The number of officers currently assigned to the investigation. Please could this include rank of officers and the codename of the investigation.
- 4) The budget assigned to the MoD for the operation to investigate Katrice Lee's disappearance.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that not all the information you requested is held by the Ministry of Defence.

The Royal Military Police (RMP) investigation into the disappearance of Katrice Lee is called Operation BUTE. The Op has been open since 2012 but does not have a dedicated budget. Funding is allocated when a line of enquiry is identified. In terms of the excavation at Paderborn, soldiers from other Regiments assisted the RMP and claimed from their own budgets. Under the Act a Public Authority is not required to create new information to respond to requests. The MOD holds data that could be used to produce information to answer the request in relation to Question 1, Question 2(i) and Question 2(ii). However, to produce the information based on this data would require significant data manipulation including complex analysis and sophisticated judgement to the extent that it can be considered 'new' information which is not currently held.

We can, however, give details of military personnel who were involved in the excavation, including ranks, and those currently supporting the investigation. We have interpreted your question to relate to those military personnel who travelled from the UK to Paderborn. However, you may wish to note that there were some 40 military personnel based in Germany who also assisted with the excavation in Paderborn but their ranks are not recorded:

Military personnel that travelled from UK to Germany:

Rank Range	Number
Warrant Officers	4
Sergeant/Staff Sergeant	3
Lance Corporal/Corporal	35

Current full-time military manning for Op BUTE:

Rank Range	Number
Warrant Officers	2
Sergeant/Staff Sergeant	4
Lance Corporal/Corporal	4

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,

