



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2019/13206/04/02

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16 December 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

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

- 1. I am looking for people who are currently serving and graded P8L8 due to any ACL injury*
- 2. any applicant that has been accepted, whether as an Officer or Soldier, whilst being P8L8 for for any ACL injury and whether they were accepted after ACL injuries became graded P8L8 from 1st January, 2015*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

As at 01 May 2019, five UK Armed Forces personnel were medically downgraded with a grading of P8 L8 and principal condition of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury.

This data has been provided as at 01 May 2019 the subsequent figures have not yet been compiled. The primary purpose of the medical data is to ensure the appropriate administration of each patient's medical care. Statistical analysis and reporting are secondary functions, meaning there can be a delay in the compilation and release of some data.

I can confirm the MOD holds information on the recruitment of Personnel which were graded P8L8. However, we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. This is because to extract information in scope of your request would involve in excess of 24 hours of staff effort.

All application data is processed in accordance with the joint service medical policy. Applications from individuals graded P8L8 will ordinarily result in a ban on starting service. If a waiver has been applied to an application this will be outside of the standard recruiting process. In order to ascertain if this has taken place, all P8L8 rejections for ACL related

injuries since 01 January 2015 would have to be located and a physical check carried out on each individual case.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

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,



Manning Team, **Army Secretariat**