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Ref: FOI2020/04785

Mr

20 May 2020

Dear Mr

Thank you for your email of 20 March 2020 to the Ministry of Defence, requesting the following information:

*"Since 1 April 2015, the total number of MOD employees who applied for ill health retirement; and the number that were successful, broken down between those granted lower tier and those granted upper tier awards prior to any appeal.*

*Since 1 April 2015, the number of appeals arising from those granted a lower tier award at first decision and the number of those that resulted in a change of award from lower to upper tier"*

Additionally, thank you for your following clarification of 21 April 2020:

*"I confirm that my request relates to civilian employees only. As far as I am aware military personnel do not have ill retirement benefits that are categorised as upper and lower tier as they fall under different pension arrangements".*

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

I am writing to confirm that the MOD holds some information in scope of your request. However, I should advise that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit.

Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate cost 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.

Each application for Ill Health Retirement would have to be manually checked to confirm the outcome. The effort to locate and retrieve the information for one year would involve a search of 495 files and archived records. It would take approximately ten minutes to investigate each file or record which would total an estimated 82.5 hours at £25.00 per hour, at a total cost of some £2,062.00 in staff effort.

However, under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that the Cabinet Office administers the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme and may be able to provide the requested information within the cost limit. A request may be submitted by following the link below, should you wish to pursue this:

<https://www.gov.uk/contact/foi>

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](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,

Defence Business Services Secretariat