

Ref: FOI2020/03029

26 March 2020

Mr

Thank you for your email of 28 February 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about the Kenya Campaign Medal and the number of War Pensions awarded for schizophrenia.

You requested the following information:

“The KCM medal information requested is for the Kenya Campaign Medal which I have already been told was issued to some British service personnel who served in what became known as the Shifita War and was called the KCM in that response so would you please look at this again with the same information requested. I would also request the information on the number of War Pensions awarded for schizophrenia between 1st April 2003 & 31st March 2019 if that is something you can easily supply”

I am treating your correspondence 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 I can confirm that all information in scope of your request is held. However, I must advise you that in relation to the Kenya Campaign Medal, we would not be able to answer your question 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 cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The MOD are not able to determine how many Kenya Campaign Medals (KCM) have been awarded within the appropriate cost limit. There is no digital database that can be interrogated to identify those Service personnel who deployed, or those who were issued with the KCM. To answer this part of your request would involve recalling thousands of service records and manually checking each file to see if there was any annotation of that individual being deployed to Kenya. To carry out this task would far exceed the £600 cost limit.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), we have an obligation to offer as much advice and assistance as is reasonably practicable and to suggest ways in which you can refine

your request. However, due to the broad nature of your request, I am unable to suggest ways in which you can refine your request to bring it under the cost limit.

Turning now to the second part of your request, between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2019 there were 127 successful War Pension claimants who had claimed compensation for schizophrenia. You may be interested to know the MOD publish statistics on claims and awards made under the War Pension Scheme. The latest publication presents statistics as at 31 March 2019 which was published on the Gov.uk website on 27 June 2019 and is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/war-pension-recipients-index>

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). 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