



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services
Secretariat Team
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2020/04275

E-mail: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

Mr

21 April 2020

Dear

Thank you for your email of 1 April 2020 requesting the following information:

- 1) the number of "payouts" / severance packages paid out by the department in the past three years to civil servants and other officials (e.g. SPADs) below retirement age*
- 2) the total amount paid out by the department in "payouts" / severance packages in the past three years to civil servants and other officials (eg SPADs) below retirement age*
- 3) where available, a breakdown of the reasons cited for the "payout", providing number and amount for each reason. Please note that if you cannot provide provide exact figures, you can provide a range/ballpark (eg fewer than five, more than 10 etc. and/or £20-50K) as per ICO guidance.*

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

However, we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. This is because, where the MOD have made a severance payment each payroll record would need to be examined in order to ascertain the payroll element used to establish the amount paid. My Civil Service Pension (MYCSP), will also have made payments before responsibility for paying passes back to the MOD. Obtaining this information from MYCSP would also incur an additional charge.

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

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that Since 01/04/17, 378 individuals have exited the MOD on either Voluntary Exit, Voluntary Release or Compulsory Redundancy terms (an exit where a payout/severance package would have applied).

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