



Ministry of Defence

Ref: FOI2020/05505

Dear

Thank you for your email of 11 May 2020 requesting the following information:

- “1. How many civilians are currently on contract under the MOD F161 contract with the Adventurous Training Group (Army)?*
- 2. How many civilians are currently on contract under the MOD F161 contract across the whole of defence?*
- 3. Out of those civilians who are currently contracted under the MOD F161 (determined at Point 2 above), how many of them are on the payroll and paid through the PAYE scheme?*
- 4. Of those civilians contracted through the MOD F161 contract and paid through the payroll as PAYE (determined at Point 3 above), how many have been furloughed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme?”*

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 all of the information in scope of your request is held. However, I have to advise you that we would not be able to answer all of your questions without exceeding the appropriate cost limit.

Section 12 of the FOI 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 it, retrieving it and extracting it.

As the information to answer question four is not centrally held, to provide an answer would require locating the HR Form 161 for all Fee Earners (FE) paid through payroll, retrieving the electronic file, then contacting each engaging Line Manager to enquire if the FE has been furloughed. Upon response from the Line Manager, we would then need to collate data. It is estimated that each case would take in the region of 15 minutes to retrieve the requested information. This would equate to approximately £3,412.50 of effort exceeding the cost limit for one question alone.

However, under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), the Department may be able to provide answers to questions 1-3. Although it is not guaranteed that your refined request may fall within the cost limit, we would be happy to look at it again.

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,

DBS Secretariat Team