



**Defence Business Services**  
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Ref: FOI2020 / 05840

11 June 2020

Dear

Thank you for your email of 19 May 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

*“A full count and disclosure of all complaints of victimisation, discrimination or hate crime of the learning disabled by the Ministry of Defence or its personnel between 1/1/2002 - 1/1/2020”*

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

Section 12(1) 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.

To produce the data required to provide a response would involve the manual interrogation of each case with a grievance/harassment code that might be in scope of your request to determine if they fall under the categories on which you have requested information. It is estimated that one person would be required to spend a minimum of 30 minutes per file on approximately 4000 files which would be unfortunately, over the cost limit referenced above. We have also established that there is no single year in which the number of cases that would need to be interrogated falls below the cost limit.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), the MOD has an obligation to offer as much advice and assistance as is reasonably practicable and as such we try to suggest ways in which you can refine your request to bring it below the cost limit. However, due to the broad nature of your request, we are unable to do so on this occasion.

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