



Ministry of Defence
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Ref: FOI2020/07971

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E-mail: [DNO-
secretariatteam@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DNO-secretariatteam@mod.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]
Via email: [REDACTED]

26 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 3rd July 2020 requesting the following information:

"...Film Badges from the 1957 start of Grapple to late 1958 were not processed but MOD (AWE), when questioned, suggest that they were.

Under FOIA please advise:-

- 1. How many film badges were issued 1957/58 and..*
- 2. How many film badges were processed?"*

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

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) may hold information within scope of your request. However, I have to advise you that we are unable to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would involve searching 7272 files. While the titles of these historic records are held on a database, the documents in scope are not digitised therefore electronic searches are not possible. In order to identify information to respond to your request, each record would need to be retrieved from archives and reviewed individually to assess if they contain any information that may be in scope. It is estimated that to comply with your request it would require some 35.5 day's work costing around £6050.

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 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.

Under section 16 of the Act it is the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so. The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine

your request to bring the cost of compliance under the £600 limit. You could choose to reduce your request by focusing on a specific Operation Grapple nuclear test. However, we should be clear that should you refine your request, it is possible the MOD will not hold the specific information you seek, or that we could remain within the £600 appropriate limit for just one area. Following the receipt of your refined request, we will be pleased to consider that request further.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint 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. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on their website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,



Defence Nuclear Organisation Secretariat