



Ministry  
of Defence

**Defence Business Services**

Head DBS Secretariat  
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Bristol BS34 8QW

[DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk)

Ref: FOI2020/ 08844

21 August 2020

Mr [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 27 July 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*“How many applicants there were for job ref: 1622559.*

*Also their names?”*

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 MOD and I can confirm that all information in scope of your request is held.

Number of applicants for job ref 1622559
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In order to protect personal information governed by the Data Protection Act 1998, Section 40(2) of the FOI Act has been applied to the information by supplementing numbers less than 5 with a tilde (~). This is because the numbers in question are low enough to allow the identification of individuals were the information pertaining to the names of applicants for job ref: 1622559 to be released. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Additionally, Section 40(2) of the FOI Act has also been applied to the remaining information in scope of your request as your request includes third party data protected under Data Protection Legislation. This is because it would contravene the first data protection principle and would be unfair and unlawful to the individual/s concerned. As previously stated, Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

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](mailto: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)