



DefenceBusinessServicesSecretariat  
Team  
Room 6303  
Tomlinson House  
Norcross  
Thornton-Cleveleys  
LancashireFY5  
3WP

Ref: FOI2020/09843

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

28 September 2020

Dear Ms

Thank you for your email of 2 September 2020 requesting the following information:

- “1. Between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, how many external candidates were offered full-time permanent employment contracts as civil servants at the department?”*
- 2. How many of those external candidates waited - or have been waiting - for more than 12 weeks for the result of their security vetting (at any clearance level)?*
- 3. How many of those external candidates waited - or have been waiting - for more than 24 weeks for the result of their national security vetting (at any clearance level)?*

*Please note that "external candidates" refers to candidates who were not previously employed as civil servants.”*

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

Regarding your request: *“1. Between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, how many external candidates were offered full-time permanent employment contracts as civil servants at the department?”*

The Ministry of Defence requires further information in order to determine whether it holds any information within the scope of your request. This relates to the term “full time permanent employment contracts”. From the data held we can determine whether applicants are external or not and identify whether they were given a provisional or formal offer, however, we are unable to say whether these offers are on a full-time or part-time basis. This is because most vacancies, are advertised with job-share as an option and from the available data we have no way of determining whether a single full-

time role is filled by one individual or more than one on a part-time basis. Also, the data held does not allow us to determine whether the contract offered was 'permanent' as specified in the question or fixed term. In view of this we would ask that you clarify or amend your request.

Regarding points two and three, we are unable to provide a response as this data is owned and held by UKSV. We are unable to provide accurate data regarding when clearances were 'granted'. You will need to approach the Cabinet Office to request the data held. Further information and contact details for the Cabinet Office can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/united-kingdom-security-vetting>

Once you have clarified your request regarding point one, I will be pleased to consider it again.

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

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