



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

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Ref: FOI2020/11317

2 November 2020

Mr

Dear Mr Thank you for your email of 8 October 2020 enclosing your letter of the same date to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“Please could you tell me the operations/deployments that have been in receipt of the Operational Allowance from 2016-2020 (as current as possible) for:

1. Army
2. Navy
3. RAF”

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 that the MOD does hold some information within the scope of your request; this is provided in Annex A attached to this letter.

Under Section 16 it may be helpful if I explain that Operational Allowance is awarded to a Specified Operational Location (SOL) that meets the threshold for eligibility. However, all the operations that are awarded Operational Allowance are Joint operations and as such, the MOD is unable to break this down by single Service componentry.

Further details on policy surrounding expenses and allowances for regular and reserve UK armed forces personnel can be found in JSP 752 Chap 11 Section 4 using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tri-service-regulations-for-expenses-and-allowances-jsp-752>

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)

Operational Allowance

The aim of Operational Allowance (OA) is to recognise the significantly increased and enduring nature of the danger in Specified Operational Locations, over and above that compensated for within the X Factor. Between 2016 and 2020 OA was payable to eligible Service Personnel assigned to Specified Operational Locations, the geographical boundary of which may have included personnel serving on RN ships in specified waters or those flying over or into a designated operational area, provided that they directly supported the operation.

| Locations qualifying for Operational Allowance during the period 2016-2020. |
|--|
| Op BLACKWELL (Somalia – all locations) |
| Op BRANTA (Egypt – Sinai only) |
| Op CATAN (Somalia – all locations) |
| Op MODEST (Somalia – all locations) |
| Op NEWCOMBE (Mali – all locations) |
| Op PERSIDIUM (Somalia – all locations) |
| Op PRAISER (Somalia – all locations) |
| Op SHADER (Iraq only) |
| Op TANGHAM (Somalia – all locations) |
| Op TORAL (Afghanistan – all locations) |
| Op TRENTON (South Sudan – all locations) |
| Op TURUS (Chad – all locations; Nigeria – Maiduguri only) |
| Op VOGUL (South Sudan – all locations) |