



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI2020/10770

Defence Business Services

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21 October 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 24 September 2020 requesting the following information:

“The number of retired, former Royal Navy submariners drawing a naval pension in UK”.

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

A search for the requested information has now been completed and I am writing to confirm that MOD holds all the information. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit.

This is because the payment data held for those in receipt of a pension does not identify if the pensioner is an ex-submariner or if they are residing in the UK. To do this would involve identifying every Royal Navy pension in payment across all three pension schemes, obtaining each of their individual pension files, and then scrutinising each file to establish which arm they served. For example, for those receiving a pension under schemes in place prior to the advent of Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2015 alone, would involve scrutinising in excess of 75,413 Royal Navy pensions currently in payment. Allowing 10 minutes per file would equate to 125,688.33 hours of work.

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 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that it would be possible to provide the number of ex-Royal Navy employees currently in receipt of a pension. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request and we would be happy to consider this again.

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