



Ministry
of Defence

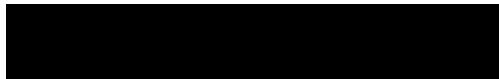
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Ref: FOI2020/12094

Mr

27 November 2020



Thank you for your email of 1 November 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about Commonwealth soldiers and Service personnel who have died in service.

You requested the following information:

"I'm after some info on Commonwealth soldiers / service personnel that have died in service; specifically, those from Fiji and Nepal (Gurkhas). Ideally before Remembrance Sunday but I fully appreciate I'm a little late at asking to say the least.

- 1) *No that have died in service between Op Banner, Telic, and Herrick / as available*
- 2) *No injured during the above operations*
- 3) *If possible - The names of those that died in service so photos and original news articles can be sourced."*

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 some of the information in scope of your request is held. However, I have to advise you that we would not be able to answer your questions without exceeding the appropriate cost limit.

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.

In order to retrieve and extract the information in scope of your request to determine the nationality of those injured or died whilst serving as a result of operations BANNER, HERRICK and TELIC, a manual search of personnel records would be required; this is because not all of

the information for all of these operations is held electronically. This exercise would require in excess of 50 person days of effort at a cost of over £8,000 and is therefore exempt under Section 12 of the FOI Act.

However, under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), I can confirm the MOD holds electronic data on deaths in service including nationality which it may be possible to provide within the cost limit. If you were to refine your request by requesting the number of Fijian and Nepalese UK armed forces personnel who died as a result of operations TELIC and HERRICK, we would be happy to look at it again.

In addition, under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) you may also find it useful to note the following information:

The names of those personnel who died as a result of operations TELIC and HERRICK are available on www.gov.uk and can be found at the following links:

Op TELIC

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121203223329/http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishFatalities.htm>

Op HERRICK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/fields-of-operation/afghanistan>

The names of those personnel who died as a result of Operation BANNER are available at the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/541368/Army_FOI_2016_09633_Information_of_service_men_and_women_death_while_on_operations_in_Northern_Ireland_on_Op_Banner_Iraq_and_Afghanistan.pdf

Information on current UK armed forces operational casualties can be found in the publication: Biannual UK armed forces and UK entitled civilians operational casualty and fatality statistics.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885610/20200514_Enclosure_1_Biannual_UK_Armed_Forces_and_UK_Entitled_Civilian_Operational_Casualty_and_Fatality_Statistics_1_Jun_11_to_31_Mar_20.pdf

Historical casualty information for Op TELIC can be found at the following link:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121203223203/http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInIraqBritishCasualties.htm>

Historical casualty information for Op HERRICK can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/op-herrick-casualty-and-fatality-tables-index>

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