



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI2020/12030

Defence Business Services

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Thank you for your

letter of 29 October 2020 requesting the following information:

“How many Reserve Forces Pension Scheme pensioners are currently receiving pensions as a consequence of having been mobilised and whether any others have applied but been refused pensions because they incorrectly completed the requisite form(s).”

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 all information in scope of your request is held. As at 5 November 2020 there were 327 pensioners recorded as receiving a Reserve Forces pension due to mobilisation.

As to the second part of your question; I have to advise, that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. This is because we do not record data on members of the Reserve Forces Pension Scheme who applied but were refused pensions as a result of them incorrectly completing the requisite form. In order to obtain this data we would have to check every reservist record to see if they had ever been mobilised. We would then have to obtain each file and manually check each case to identify the chosen option and whether the pension was refused as a result of it being incorrectly completed. This would involve checking in excess of tens of thousands of files. This year alone, due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, there have been in excess of 3500 mobilisations.

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), it is possible that by limiting your request to a specified time period we may be able to answer the request and we would be happy to consider any refinement to your request.

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