



Policy Legacy FOI Team
Headquarters 38 (Irish) Brigade
British Forces Post Office 801

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Reference: FOI: 2020/00943

Date: 10 February 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – INFORMATION RELATING TO “RING OF STEEL”
SECURITY CORDON AROUND BELFAST CITY CENTRE DURING THE NORTHERN IRELAND
CONFLICT – 1972-1994**

Thank you for your e-mail dated 22 January, I can confirm that your request has been considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI (A)), and the process is now complete.

You asked for the following:

“I am an independent researcher gathering information about the “Ring of Steel” security cordon placed around Belfast city centre during the Northern Ireland conflict 1972-1994.

Please can you provide information on the following:

Was the MoD responsible for taking the decision to erect the security cordon?

If so, when was this decision made?

Was the MoD responsible for erecting and manning the cordon?

If so, during which period?

Was responsibility for the cordon passed to other authorities?

If so, to whom and when?”

Whilst we may have some information it has been estimated that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12(2) of the FOI(A), we are not obliged to comply. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it. Thousands of records would need to be reviewed therefore we are unable to quantify how long it would take to process.

As previously explained under Section 16 of the FOI(A) (Duty to provide advice and assistance), I can advise that The Public Records Office (PRONI) and The National Archives (TNA) may hold information that could be of relevance to your request. To submit a FOI request to the you should forward your request to the following addresses:

By post: - The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU

By E-mail - <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/contactform.asp?id=10>

By post: - Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 2 Titanic Boulevard, Titanic Quarter, Belfast, BT3 9HQ.

By E-mail: proni@communities-ni.gov.uk

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 FOI(A). 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

38 (Irish) Brigade FOI Team