



Defence Business Services
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Ref: FOI2020/12664

16 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 October 2020, requesting the following information:

“1. The number of servicewomen who have been medically discharged from the three services. A broken down figure for each service, Navy, Army and RAF.

2. Of those medically discharged how many where medically discharged with some kind of financial benefit (compensation/ pay out) in line with medical discharge policy. A broken down figure for each service, Navy, Army and RAF.

3. Of those medically discharged how many where a medically administrative discharged? Receiving no financial benefit. A broken down figure for each service, Navy, Army and RAF.

These statistics can be in electronic form or hard copy”.

We asked you to clarify the time period you requested the information for and you replied:

*I failed to put a key bit of information in my initial request, that being than I only require the stats for those service women discharged with **endometriosis** in the date period below within the parameters of my initial request eg from each service.*

1. Dates range of discharges - 2010 -2020/21

2. I would require both those medically administrative discharged (which does not attract a financial benefit) and those medically discharged (attracting a financial benefit)

We then asked you to clarify your requirements in respect of question 2 and you replied:

I can clarify that I would like to know how many women were medically discharged with a financial reward (the three tier system) from MOD/DBS and those who did get an AFCS award.

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 all 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 limit.

Section 12 of the FOI 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, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

A total of 1,000 female Service personnel were 'administratively' discharged across all three services for the period April 2015-March 2020 alone. To ascertain how many were 'administratively' discharged in respect of Endometriosis, each case would need to be interrogated to establish which would be in scope of the request. It would take at least 30 minutes per case, at the rate of £25 per hour, equating to approximately £12,500 effort, exceeding the appropriate cost limit for part of one question alone.

However, under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), the Department may be able to provide some information in the scope of your request if you were to refine your request by only asking for a response to questions one and two. Although it is not guaranteed that your refined request may fall within the cost limit, we would be happy to look at it 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