

Ref: FOI2021/00412

8 February 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 29 December 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“The GOTT offer to transfer remains complex to understand. The fact that a few of our members will soon be reaching 60 which is the qualifying age to transfer, we request that you as a duty of care and led by the Freedom of Information Act to please divulge the following information:

Rank	Service in Years	Age 60 in Jan 2020	AFPS 75 Pension	Remarks
WO1	22			
WO1	15			
WO1	12			
WO2	20			
WO2	15			
WO2	12			
WO2	8			
CSgt/SSgt	19			
CSgt/SSgt	15			
CSgt/SSgt	8			
CSgt/SSgt	6			
Sgt	18			
Sgt	15			
Sgt	10			
Sgt	7			
Cpl	15			
Cpl	10			
Cpl	7			
LCpl	15			
LCpl	10			
LCpl	7			
Rfn	15			
Rfn	10			
Rfn	7			

This information is crucial to compare the AFPS pension against the Gurkha Pension Scheme and will also be required to present to our respective MPs. We do understand that this may not be accurate, but an average figure based on the information sought will be adequate for our purpose."

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm no information in scope of your request is held.

Under section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance), you may be interested to know that there is no database listing all those who opted for AFPS75 deferred pension benefits under the Gurkha Offer to Transfer (GOTT). Every amount of pension is individual to each Gurkha as there is no set rate for a rank with a particular number of years' Service, nor are there any commonalities to work against as pension rates are dependant upon rank and the year of discharge, which would be different for each Gurkha.

To process pension entitlements, Veterans UK extract all those who are going to be age 60 within a six month period from the Far East & Nepal Administration System (FENAS), request their pension file and check individuals files to see if they opted to transfer into AFPS at the deferred pension age of 60. If they made a positive election to transfer in 2008, then Veterans UK calculate what their deferred AFPS pension will be from age 60. You should note, however, that Gurkhas do not receive the same deferred pension rate as their UK equivalent. This is because a Gurkha receives an immediate Gurkha Pension on discharge after 15 years' Service, whereas their UK equivalent with 15 years' Service has to wait until age 60 to receive their pension. Therefore, when a Gurkha transfers at age 60 they receive a percentage of the deferred pension to reflect the fact that they have been receiving a Gurkha pension from discharge until they reach 60 and move across to the AFPS.

Unfortunately, due to the broad nature of your request, I am not able to suggest ways in which you can refine 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