



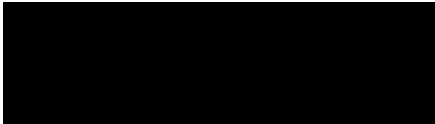
Ministry
of Defence

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Defence Business Services Secretariat
Room 6303
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FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2021/00575

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk



22 January 2021

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“Can you please inform me of the numbers of - RN leavers between 1970 and 2005 that became entitled to a pension under AFPS75”

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 some of the information in scope of your request is held. However, I must advise you that to answer your refined request would exceed the appropriate cost 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.

To answer your request would involve the cross-referencing of many thousands of Service Numbers against pensions records. Many pensions paid under the AFPS 75 do not become payable until age 60 and, as such, there will be Royal Navy service leavers who are not yet in receipt of their pension but have entitlement to a pension under the AFPS 75. Furthermore, this would not include those who received a pension but had subsequently died so further searches would also then need to be carried out.

We have an obligation under Section 16 (Advice and Guidance) of the FOIA to offer as much advice and assistance as is reasonably practicable and as such we would normally suggest ways in which you can refine your request to bring it below the cost limit. However, the MOD is unable to provide any information which would assist you as we only hold electronic data for service leavers from 1970 onwards and this is subject to the same requirement to cross reference for pension information.

What I can advise you is that there are 92,711 Royal Navy service leavers who are currently in receipt of a pension under the AFPS 75.

You may also wish to be aware that prior to 1975 there were no rights to preserved pensions in any public or private pension schemes. Most schemes had very restricted qualifying criteria for the award of pensions. For the Armed Forces, occupational pensions were awarded only if a member had completed at least 16 years reckonable service as an officer or 22 years reckonable service as another rank.

Further information related to the Armed Forces Pension Schemes can be found on the Gov.uk website at the following link – <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pensions-and-compensation-for-veterans>

In addition further information about AFPS 75 in particular can be found at the following link -

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911030/FINAL_DRAFT - AFPS 75 Your Scheme Explained.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/911030/FINAL_DRAFT_-_AFPS_75_Your_Scheme_Explained.pdf)

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)