

Ref: FOI2021/04619

17 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 27 April 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“Widowed Parents Allowance (replaced in recent years by Bereavement Benefit) is a payment to married widows or widowed with children. Over the duration of my entitlement (ie date of death until completion of full time education) this award would have been £112,000. I was advised that war widows are the only cohort who are not entitled to WPA and that the government is nit minded to change the legislation that would overturn this injustice. However I am aware that a number of war widows are in receipt of WPA. I would like to know the number that receive it and the justification for this. The war widows pension meets the definition of child poverty. We are nit rich. A premiership footballer or city banker would have received it. My [REDACTED] would have received it had I have died. Please take this up with the new veterans minister as I am sick of being fobbed off. “ thank you for your sacrifice doesn’t pay the bills.” Please that this as a freedom of information request.”

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.

However, under section 16 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, the MOD is required to provide you with advice and assistance to help resolve your request. The Widowed Parents Allowance is administered by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and any complaint would need to be directed to them. How to make a complaint to DWP is explained in the following link:

[DWP Complaints Procedure](#)

If you would like to submit a FOI request to the DWP, information on how to do so can be found at the link below:

[Make an FOI Request to DWP](#)

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