



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence

Defence Business Services Secretariat
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2021/09304, FOI2021/09305,
FOI2021/09993, FOI2021/09992

Email:

Mr

Dear

10 September 2021

Thank you for your emails of 20 August 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

FOI2021/09304

"Please send me a list of all items for home working in your department since March 2020 which cost more than £1,000."

FOI2021/09305

"Please send me the total costs for home working equipment for officials in your department since March 2020."

On 6 September 2021 you emailed the MOD requesting the same information:

FOI2021/09993

"Please send me a list of all items for home working in your department since March 2020 which cost more than £1,000."

FOI2021/09992

"Please send me the total costs for home working equipment for officials in your department since March 2020."

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 all the information in scope of your request is held. However, I must advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the

appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of

your request, would involve scrutiny of more than 18,400 Miscellaneous Personal Payments claims received between March 2020 and 31 August 2021. It is estimated that this would take at least five minutes per claim, at a total cost of approximately £38,300.

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

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may be interested to know that it is the responsibility of Line Managers within the Department to approve claims made using the MOD form 1108 (Miscellaneous Personal Payments). Only the most basic of free text appears on the centralised system to identify the reason for the claim, such as Reimbursement; Compensation; Costs Incurred; Refund; Other; etc. It may be possible to narrow down the search if you were to refine your request to a specific Business Unit within the MOD, however it is likely that only claims for items such as equipment needed specifically for working from home during lockdown could be identifiable locally.

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,

Ref: FOI2021/09785/10196

30 September 2021

Dear

Thank you for your emails of 2 and 8 September 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking the following information:

FOI 2021/09785

"I am writing to request that I am provided with the following documents and information by the MoD under The Freedom of Information Act:

- Pension Policy Statements/Instructions from 2005 to the present day in relation to the AFPS 75, AFPS 05 and Armed Forces Attributable Benefits Scheme;
- Veterans Agency Medical Adjudication Guide on specific topics by Dr Braidwood
- War Pension Medical Advisers Instructions and Procedures;
- Veterans Agency Medical Adjudication Guide;
- MPM57A Veterans Agency Medical Handbook;"

FOI 2021/10196

"I am writing to you to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for the MoD/Veterans UK to provide me with the following information:

1. A copy of the DBS Veterans UK policy on financial redress for maladministration;
2. Documents on Armed Forces pension policy in relation to ill health pensions for PTSD and mental health disorders;
3. Policy and guidance documents for Veterans UK Deciding Officers;
4. Policy documents in relation to retrospective medical discharges and ill health pension entitlements to soldiers that receive retrospective medical discharges;
5. Information on the outcome of the Hodder v Pension Appeal Tribunal (details are in the attached document) and summarised below:
 27. It follows that the reconsideration before the Tribunal will entail the following stages:

(a) The Tribunal must decide whether PTSD is in fact the only psychiatric condition from which the Claimant suffers.

(b) If PTSD is the only such condition, the Tribunal must then assess the level of disability suffered by the Claimant on account of PTSD.

(c) If the Tribunal concludes that there are psychiatric conditions in play other than PTSD, it must assess the overall disability suffered by the Claimant on account of all psychiatric conditions and then determine how much of that global level is attributable to PTSD.

A short explanation of its approach is called for in the reasons it gives for its decision”.

I have considered the above requests under the FOIA and in accordance with the letter sent to you on 31 July 2015 and the Internal Review upholding this decision of 9 September 2015 these requests are being treated as vexatious requests under section 14(1) of FOIA.

The correspondence listed above advised, *“the Department has no obligation to comply with the requests listed above or with any future requests on the subject of ‘Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and related issues’. This includes, but is not limited to, compensation claims, pension payments, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD in both military and civilian personnel. Should you choose to submit further requests or correspondence on this subject you should be aware they will go unanswered”.*

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.

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Yours sincerely



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Ref: FOI2021/10265

Defence Business Services

Secretariat Team
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 3WP

E-mail:

17 September 2021

Dear

Thank you for your email of 10 September 2021 requesting the following information:

"We wish to put in a freedom of information on myself and my wife across all government departments including mi5,

My name is

My Wifes name is

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Under section 40(5) the MOD neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any information in scope of your request. Your request asks about your own personal data. Were any of your personal data to be held it would be exempt under section 40(1). However, a release under FOI is assumed to be a release to the public at large. Therefore, admitting to holding or not holding information would be to breach the fair processing principal of the Data Protection Act. In view of this the MOD neither confirms nor denies it holds any information in scope of your request.

Section 40(5) is an absolute exemption and not subject to public interest testing. The fact that Section 40(5) of the FOIA has been cited should not be taken as an indication that the information you have requested is, or is not held by the Department. The terms of this exemption of the FOIA mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for us to reveal whether or not the information is held.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) further information about submitting a Subject Access Request for personal information to the MOD and a copy of the application form can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/obtain-information-about-yourself-held-by-mod>

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

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Room 6303
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FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2021/10220

Email:

1 October 2021

Dear

Thank you for your email of 9 September 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“1) In the calendar year 2020, and in the calendar year 2021 so far, how much money has your Department spent on home-working equipment for employees? (including but not limited to laptops, broadband, chairs, chargers, headphones, and fans)

2) Can you provide a thorough breakdown of:

- a) the equipment that has been paid for*
- b) the amount spent on these items?”*

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 all the information in scope of your request is held. However, I must advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request, would involve scrutiny of more than 20,400 Miscellaneous Personal Payments claims received between January 2020 and 31 August 2021. It is estimated that this would take at least five minutes per claim, at a total cost of approximately £42,500.

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

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) I should explain that it is the responsibility of Line Managers within the Department to approve claims made using the MOD form 1108 (Miscellaneous Personal Payments). Only the most basic of free text appears on the centralised system to identify the reason for the claim, such as Reimbursement; Compensation; Costs Incurred; Refund; Other; etc. It may be possible to narrow down the

search if you were to refine your request to a specific Business Unit within the MOD, however it is likely that only claims for items such as equipment needed specifically for working from home during lockdown could be identifiable locally.

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.

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Yours sincerely,

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)



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Tomlinson House
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FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2021/10308 & FOI2021/10311

Email: 29 September 2021

Dear

Thank you for your emails of 13 September 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

FOI2021/10308

“Please send me a list of all items for home working in your department between March 2020 and July 2020 which cost more than £1,000.”

FOI2021/10311

“Please send me the total costs for home working equipment for officials in your department between March and July 2020”

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 all the information in scope of your request is held. However, I must advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request, would involve scrutiny of approximately 3,737 Miscellaneous Personal Payments claims received between March 2020 and July 2020. It is estimated that this would take at least five minutes per claim, at a total cost of approximately £7,785.

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

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) I should explain that it is the responsibility of Line Managers within the Department to approve claims made using the MOD form 1108 (Miscellaneous Personal Payments). Only the most basic of free text appears on the

centralised system to identify the reason for the claim, such as Reimbursement; Compensation; Costs Incurred; Refund; Other; etc.

As explained in our previous reply of 10 September 2021, ref FOI2021/09304, FOI2021/09305, FOI2021/09993 and FOI2021/09992, it may be possible to narrow down the search if you were to refine your request to a specific Business Unit within the MOD, however it is likely that only claims for items such as equipment needed specifically for working from home during lockdown could be identifiable locally.

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)