

Ref: FOI2021/10630

5 October 2021

Dear

Thank you for your email of 20 September 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking the following information:

*“I have some questions for an FOI request I'm making on expense claims which I would appreciate your help with:*

1. *How many total expense claims did you process in 2020?*
2. *How many total expense claims did you process in 2019?*
3. *Have expense claims been rejected between March 2019-March 2020?*
  - *If so, how many?*
4. *Have expense claims been rejected between March 2020-March 2021?*
  - *If so, how many?*
5. *Have there been any investigations relating to expense fraud in your department between March 2019-March 2020?*
  - *If so, how many?*
6. *Have there been any investigations relating to expense fraud in your department between March 2020-March 2021?*
  - *If so, how many?*
7. *How many of these investigations have found a staff member at your department to be in breach of your rules relating to expenses?*
8. *Has anyone who has been found to be in breach of expense rules been dismissed?*
  - *If so, how many?*
9. *Has anyone who has been found to be in breach of expense rules been prosecuted?*
  - *If so, how many?*
10. *What was the cost of fraudulent expenses to your department between March 2019-March 2020?*
11. *What was the cost of fraudulent expenses to your department between March 2020-March 2021?*
12. *Do you have a clear set of rules in regards to expenses in place at your department?*
13. *Do managers go through training to enable them to spot potentially fraudulent expense claims?*
14. *Have any invoices been paid that were later found to be fraudulent between March 2019-March 2020?*
  - *If so, what was the value of each one?*
15. *Have any invoices been paid that were later found to be fraudulent between March 2020-March 2021?*
  - *If so, what was the value of each one?”*

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

Before I can establish whether any information in scope of your request is held, the Department requires clarification of the request.

Please could you confirm whether you seek the information for Civilian Personnel, Military Personnel, or both.

If you would like the information for Civilian Personnel, please confirm if you would also like information relating to the Executive Agencies of the Department to be included in the response.

It would also be helpful if you could provide further information relating to the type of expenses detailed in your request. For example, travel and subsistence, hospitality costs or office equipment costs.

Once you have clarified these points, I will be happy to consider your request 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](mailto: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

***DBS Secretariat Team***