Ref: FOI2021/14946   DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

4 January 2022

Dear

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

> *"I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the MoD:*
> 1. *The total number of armed forces veterans currently claiming an immediate pension (IP)*
> 2. *The total number of veterans claiming the immediate pension under the age of 65*
> 3. *The total number of veterans claiming the immediate pension receiving less than £20,000 a year, less than £15,000 a year, less than £10,000 a year and less than £5,000 a year from their pension*
> 4. *The total number of armed forces veterans who have reached out to the MoD veterans team for homelessness support as well as the total number of veteran homelessness cases that the MoD have played a role in supporting, broken down by year since 2010.*
>
> *If the information is in excess of the cost of compliance limits in Section 12, please advise on how the request can be reduced, and likewise if anything in the request can be clarified do not hesitate to contact me.*
>
> *I would appreciate an email acknowledging receipt of the request and the beginning of the 20 working day legal time limit to provide a response – without such an acknowledgment I will calculate the date from today – making the scheduled return no later than January 7th."*

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

The Ministry of Defence requires further information in order to determine whether it holds any information within the scope of your request. This is because veterans do not claim an immediate pension. They may be awarded one provided they meet the minimum length of service and age requirements. The records held for all under the age of 65 would include all of those pensions currently in payment as the minimum pension age requirement is age 40 for Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) 75, age 55 for AFPS 05 and age 60 for AFPS15.
It would help if you could clarify this part of your request as it is not clear and we are unsure if you mean all those under 65 now?

Can you also please clarify what you mean by "the MOD veteran's team"? Do you mean the number of veterans who have contacted the Veterans UK Helpline, or have received assistance from the Veterans Welfare Service (VWS)? The VWS conduct a holistic assessment for each client's welfare issues. Some may be homeless or have accommodation issues but unfortunately the VWS do not hold statistics relating to this.

Once you have clarified your request, I will be pleased to consider it again.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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