



**Defence Business Services**

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Ref: FOI2021/15444

17<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear

Thank you for your email of 15 December 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*"I understand that there are thirteen Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (VAPCs), as listed below. Please could you provide the following information:*

- 1. The VAPCs' total annual budget for the last five financial years (i.e. 2016/17 through to 2020/21).*
- 2. The annual expenditure of each VAPC region for each of the last five financial years (i.e. 2016/17 through to 2020/21).*

*VAPC regions:*

- West Scotland*
- East Scotland*
- Eastern*
- London*
- East Midlands*
- West Midlands*
- North East*
- North West*
- South East*
- South West*
- Yorkshire and Humber*
- Northern Ireland*
- Wales"*

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 MOD and I can confirm some information in scope of your request is held.

The annual budget set aside for the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee (VAPC), for each of the past five financial years was £30,000 per year.

With regards to Q2, I can confirm that the information requested is not centrally held as the

VAPC expenditure is not broken down or recorded by region.

However, under section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA you may find it helpful to know that the annual expenditure of the VAPC for each of the last four financial years, please note figures prior to FY18/19 are not centrally held as the Unique Identifying Number for the VAPC was, at that time, shared with other areas of the MOD. To separate out the VAPC spend would involve interrogating each claim made during that period which would exceed the FOI cost limit.

FY18/19 - £31,609

FY19/20 - £22,682

FY20/21 - £1,915 - VAPC activity curtailed by Covid19

FY21/22 - £3,540 - VAPC activity curtailed by Covid19

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