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[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – UK TROOP LEVELS DURING OPERATION BANNER

Thank you for your e-mail dated 18 November, I can confirm that your request has been considered under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI (A)), and the process is now complete.

You asked the following:

“I’m looking for data on UK troop levels during Operation Banner, broken down by month. This data will be used in an academic paper that seeks to help answer the question of whether or not increased troop levels reduces violence or not.”

We have now completed a search for the information you requested, unfortunately we do not have a breakdown of the information in the format requested.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Duty to provide advice and assistance), I can advise that the information for the number of UK troop levels in Northern Ireland during Operation Banner on a yearly basis can be found at the following links:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20140116144933mp/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/2008/2008.pdf>

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20140116143046/http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/UK-defence-statistics-compendium/>

We have also included the following link whilst not actually giving numerical troop levels it will give you some indication as to number of battalions that were deployed to Northern Ireland during Op BANNER:

[Information regarding tour dates of the Army and Navy on Op. BANNER \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

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 FOI(A). 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

38 (Irish) Brigade FOI Team