

Ref: FOI2022/04100

11 April 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 22 March 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

1. *“Between April 2018 - April 2021 inclusive, how many applications for a pension were made by personnel, using the FMED 24 Form, as they were being medically discharged from the military?”*

N.B. The FMED 24 is completed when a Medical Board has recommended that a member of the Forces be discharged from the Service/has made recommendations under the terms of RAF QR, paragraph 531.

2. *Between April 2018 - April 2021 inclusive, how many initial applications for the above pension, were assigned as "Tier 1"?*

3. *Between April 2018 - April 2021 inclusive, how many 'First' Appeals which requested a review of the assigned Tier 1 status pension, were received?*

4. *Between April 2018 - April 2021 inclusive, how many 'First' Appeals resulted in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 pension being assigned? In other words, the initial decision of being awarded a Tier 1 pension was overturned.*

5. *Between April 2018 - April 2021 inclusive, how many 'Second' Appeals which requested a review of the assigned Tier 1 status pension, were received?*

6. *Between April 2018 - April 2021 inclusive, how many 'Second' Appeals resulted in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 pension being assigned? In other words, the initial decision and 'First' appeal ruling which awarded and maintained a Tier 1 pension, were overturned after two appeals to a higher tier”.*

I am treating your request as a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. I can confirm that all 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 cost limit.

It may help if I explain that information on the type of discharge in pension cases, as well as information regarding the point at which an award is made, is not held electronically and a manual search of 4,426 individual case files is required in order to answer this request. Each file would take approximately 10 minutes to check at a cost of £18,441.50.

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.

Usually we would offer a refinement you could make to your request to bring the cost below the £600 limit, under Section 16 of the FOIA. However, in this case we have been unable to identify a refinement. However, if you have a refinement which you would like considered, please contact this office and we will be happy to consider it.

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



DBS (Secretariat)