



**Defence Business Services**

Secretariat  
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Ref: FOI2022/04349

[DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk)

7 July 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 31 March 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

*“What is the capacity for desk-based workers to be in the department's Whitehall office at any one time? What was it in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022?  
How many workers do you have attached to the Whitehall office?  
What was it in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022?  
If the number has changed since 2018, please state why”*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I apologise for the time it has taken to respond to your request, this was the result of more than one area holding recorded information.

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

In answer to your first question, I can confirm that the Whitehall office desk capacity is capped at 4,437 due to the fire limit and has not changed since 2018.

To answer your remaining questions, as at 10 May 2022, there were 3,211 Ministry of Defence workers attached to the Whitehall office, this is recorded on a live document and therefore information is not held for the previous years requested and it is not known if the numbers have changed.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) I can also confirm that as at 10 May 2022 there was a total of 270 personnel attached to the building who are Contractors working for the MOD or personnel from Other Government Departments.

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

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Defence Business Services Secretariat