



Defence Business Services

Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2022/09162

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

25 August 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 30 July 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about the award of the General Service Medal (GSM) with clasp for the Campaign in Dhofar Oman.

You requested the following information:

“Do you have a list of how many GSMs were issued for the Campaign in Dhofar Oman, and who they were issued to?”

If so, can I have a copy?”

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 that some information in scope of your request is held.

Prior to 2005 the Tri- Services, Army, Navy and Royal Air Force (RAF), were responsible for awarding and distributing their own honours and awards. When the Ministry of Defence Medal Office (MODMO) was established in 2005 all the historic paperwork held by the Tri-Services was passed over and held by MODMO for future reference. Unfortunately, only the documentation collated at the time is held.

I can confirm that the MODMO only holds the figures for the number of General Service Medals (GSM) with clasp Dhofar, awarded to those who served in the Army. The medal rolls, if they ever existed, for the Navy and the RAF were never passed to the MODMO and, due to the passage of time, are no longer held.

There were circa 5,460 GSM 1962 with clasp Dhofar issued to members of the Army according to the medal rolls held.

The table below has been extracted from the MODMO database and shows all medals and clasps relating to the campaign that have been despatched to eligible members of the Tri-Services since 2005.

Award	Total
GSM 1962 - DHOFAR	69
CLASP TO GSM 1962 - DHOFAR	102

In order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018, Section 40(2) of the FOI Act has been applied to the part of your request where you ask for information relating to whom the awards were made. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to know that the GSM (1962 -2007) was the successor to the separate GSM (Army & RAF) 1918 and the Navy GSM 1915. This medal recognises campaigns from 1962 to 2007.

The GSM 1962 Dhofar clasp was awarded for 30 days or more, not necessarily continuous, in the Dhofar Province of Oman between 1st October 1969 and 30th September 1976, while on the posted or attached strength of a unit or formation of HM Forces in that area. Thirty flights or more into Salalah airfield in support of operations at a rate of not more than one landing per day during the qualifying period as member of British Service transport units or detachments. Service of 30 days or more afloat, not necessarily continuous, while posted to a British Service vessel operating in Oman territorial waters adjacent to the province of Dhofar in direct support of operations in the Dhofar campaign between 1st October 1969 and 30th September 1976. Such service may be aggregated with service on land to complete the required period of 30 days.

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



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