



Defence Business Services

Room 6303
Tomlinson House
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Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2022/11908

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

10th November 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 17 October 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about Annual Allowance Pensions savings statement

You requested the following information:

" Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could you provide me the following related to Annual Allowance Pensions Savings Statements:

In FY21/22 and FY22/23, how many Service Personnel were sent an Annual Allowance Pensions Savings Statement?

Of the above, what is their rank, service and gender?

Of the above, how many are Medical and Dental Officers?"

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 Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm some of the information you have requested is held. However, I have to advise you that we would not be able to answer your questions without exceeding the appropriate limit.

Section 12 of the FOI 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, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

In order to fully answer your question, to seek the Rank, Service, Gender and if they are a Medical and Dental officer, would require locating, manually calling and interrogating 3,745 pension files that have had Annual Pensions Statement Issued, taking at least 187 hours. At the rate of £25 per hour, this would far exceed the appropriate cost limit.

Under section 16 (Advice and Assistance), it may be helpful to advise that no Pensions savings statements have been issued for the Financial Year 2022/23, this is because under His Majesty's Revenue and Customs rules, Annual Allowance pensions savings statements must be issued retrospectively by 6 Oct in the year that the tax year ends.

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

Defence Business Services Secretariat