



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

Secretariat
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2023/01686

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

March 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 4 February 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

"I am the treasurer of my local Royal British Legion. The Branch has been going through a period of torpor and we are trying to resurrect its activities. We are trying to reach-out to Veterans in our community. I understand that you cannot give out individual details, but can you give me the number of veterans in Kidsgrove, ST7? It will give us an idea of how many people we need to contact".

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 no information is held in scope of your request. This is because the MOD does not routinely track veterans and therefore information is only available on individuals who are in receipt of an Armed Forces pension and/or compensation and will not be representative of all veterans in a given location.

However, under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) you may wish to be aware that Defence Statistics Health publishes an annual bulletin on the location of Armed Forces pension and compensation recipients using postcode data from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), War Pension Scheme (WPS) and Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS). The latest data was issued on 25 August 2022 and this and previous iterations can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/location-of-armed-forces-pension-and-compensation-recipients>

Table 6 of the Supplementary Tables includes a breakdown of recipients by UK postcodes.

This information is also reliant on accurate postcode details being voluntarily supplied and updated by those in receipt of a pension and/or compensation. Additionally, please note that a small number of recipients of AFCS awards may still be serving.

For the first time, the England and Wales Census 2021 included a question asking respondents about their status as a veteran of the UK armed forces. The Office for National Statistics and the Office for Veterans Affairs have published the first results of the census, including low-level geographic information on the location of veterans and characteristics of veterans by region-

level geographic information, at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/armedforcescommunity>.

If you wish to complain about 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)