



Ministry  
of Defence

**Defence Business Services**

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Ref: FOI2023/06403

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 12 May 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*"Please treat this email as a Freedom Of Information (FOI) request. Response expected within the required timescales.*

*I have reviewed a number of documents online, which includes the reserve forces pension information at the following link [Reserve force pension scheme explained \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)*

*At page 3 "Pensionable Pay" is defined as "Basic pay including any X factor applicable, depending upon commitment, but excluding allowances, bounties, bonuses, financial retention incentives, loan service pay, and any form of specialist pay.*

*However, it does not specifically state "Reserve Award" that is payable to reservists to prevent financial hardship. It applies during periods of mobilisations in making up the shortfall in military pay if the civilian pay is higher.*

*My FOI request is as follows: Is the "Reserve Award" considered pensionable pay as part of the reserve forces pensions scheme? Reference required if the answer is yes".*

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 all information is held in scope of your request. However, the information is withheld under Section 21 of the FOIA (Information reasonably available by other means).

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, I can advise that a Reserve Award is paid to personnel who have a higher civilian salary than the basic salary they are paid during their mobilised service. This ensures that they are in receipt of the same level of pay they would be receiving had they not been mobilised. A Reserve Award, when paid, is an addition to the members pay and not part of the basic pay awarded and is therefore not considered a pensionable earning.

The link to Joint Service Publication 905 below confirms this in Chapter 3 part 23:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-pension-scheme-2015-and-early-departure-payments-scheme-2015-jsp-905-part-one>

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](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.

DBS (Secretariat)