



Ministry of Defence

Defence Business Services
Secretariat
Room 6229
Tomlinson House
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Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2023/10882

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

13 December 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 6 September 2023, to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about temporary working overseas concessions. I am sorry for the length of time that it has taken to gather this information to respond to your request.

You requested the following information:

"Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

How many staff have been given permission to work remotely overseas for the last available year for which you have statistics?

How many staff are currently working remotely overseas?"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

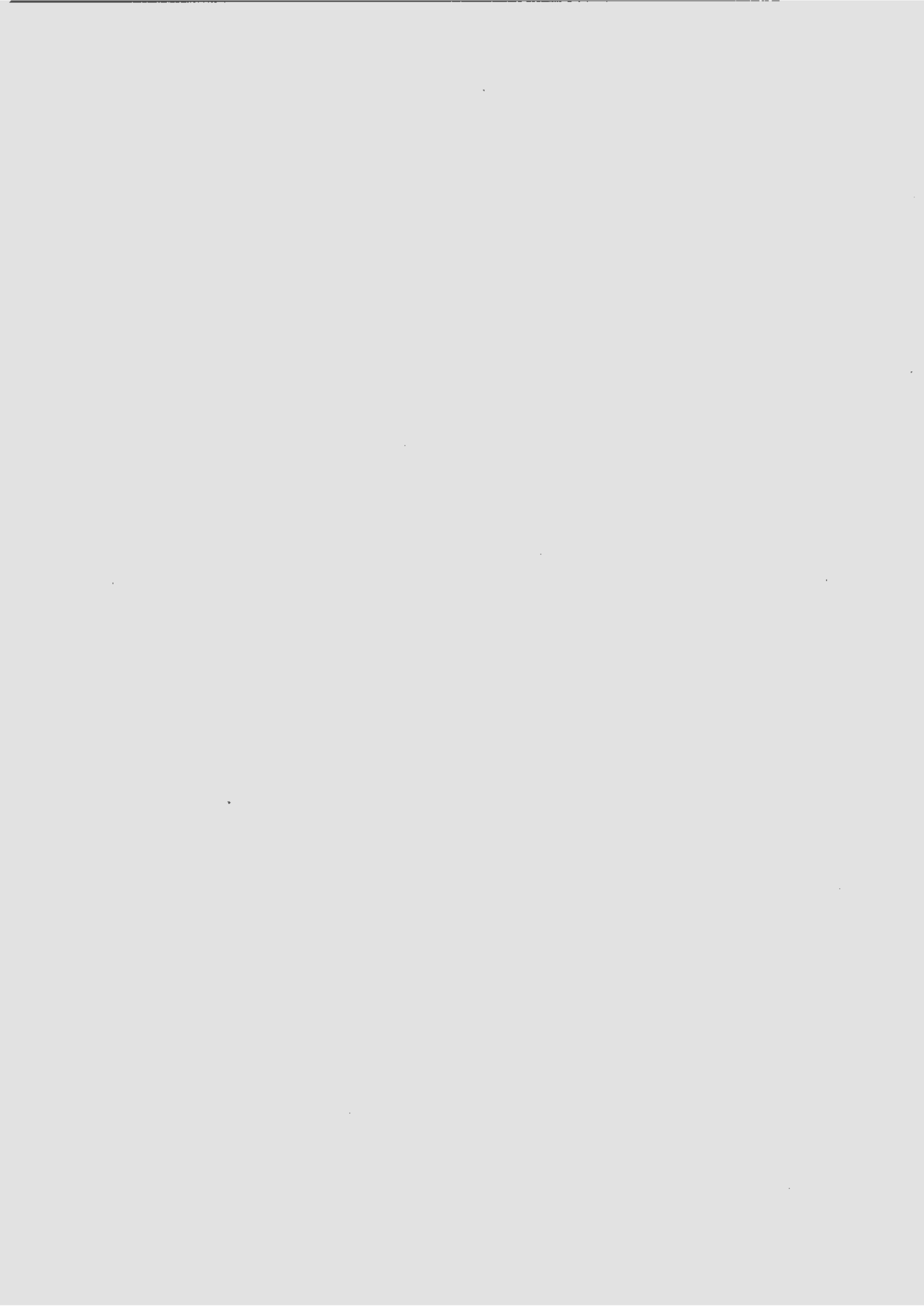
A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm all information in scope of your request is held.

With regards to your first question, I can confirm that, in total during the financial year 2023/24, 26 employees have been given permission to work remotely overseas.

Of those 26 employees, 14 are still working remotely overseas, three have no end date other than "duration of partners posting", and two have no end date recorded.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA I will explain that employees are not normally allowed to work remotely overseas, unless they have been exceptionally approved to internationally remote work in their UK based role on the basis of an approved temporary concession, of which there are two types:

- 1) The requesting employee is an accompanying spouse/civil partner/unmarried cohabiting partner of a MOD employee or member of the Armed Forces (AF) who has been formally posted overseas, and they wish to continue working overseas in their existing UK based role. Allowing this for partners of AF personnel supports our commitment to the AF



Covenant. This arrangement applies for the duration of the employee's partner's overseas tenure.

Or

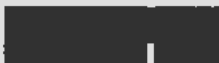
- 2) The request is to temporarily work overseas for exceptional personal/domestic reasons (for a maximum of 2 months), which are:
 - a) Attending a close family member's funeral
 - b) Receiving urgent and serious medical attention
 - c) Accompanying a family member requiring urgent and serious medical attention
 - d) Complying with urgent legal responsibilities overseas
 - e) Supporting a relative overseas who needs other urgent and immediate help
 - f) There are no family members geographically nearer to the relative.

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

