



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

Secretariat
Room 6229
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2024/05458

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

3 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 March 2024 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

**"FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – HISTORIC MEDALS
'BERLIN AIRLIFT' AND 'CYPRUS 1963-1964' CLASPS**

The 2012 Historic Medals Review resulted in the award of General Service Medal (GSM) clasps for two post-World War Two campaigns:

- (1) The 'Berlin Airlift' clasp for the GSM 1918 awarded to aircrew involved in that operation; and*
- (2) The 'Cyprus 1963-1964' clasp for the GSM 1962.*

I would be grateful for the following information in relation to these awards:

- (1) The number of individuals estimated by the MOD to be eligible for each of these GSM awards; and*
- (2) The number of medals and/or clasps issued so far to eligible individuals (including to descendants of deceased eligible individuals)."*

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

In response to question 1, *The number of individuals estimated by the MOD to be eligible for each of these GSM awards*, I can confirm that the MOD holds recorded data regarding an earlier FOI request dated 2014 which we confirmed the following:

Award of GSM 1918-62 with clasp 'Berlin Airlift' – Cohort size 1000 – expected application uptake 20 per cent.

Award of GSM 1918-62 with clasp 'Cyprus' – Cohort size 1000 – expected application uptake 25 per cent.

Award of GSM 1962 with clasp 'Cyprus 1963-64' – Cohort size 10,000 – expected application uptake 30 per cent.

Award of South Atlantic Medal 1982 – Cohort size 10,000 – expected application uptake 80 per cent.

No further estimates have been undertaken since this time and there was no post project review conducted.

In response to question 2, *The number of medals and/or clasps issued so far to eligible individuals (including to descendants of deceased eligible individuals)*. The recorded data held can be found in the table below:

Clasp to GSM 18 – Berlin Airlift	23
Clasp to Naval GSM – Berlin Airlift	1
GSM 18 – Berlin Airlift	65
Clasp to GSM 1962 - Cyprus 1963-64	293
GSM 1962 - Cyprus 1963-64	931

Please note that where a clasp is issued alone the recipient had already received the GSM or NGSM for a different conflict.

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)