



**Joint Capability
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
4-F-35, Main Building
Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB**

Telephone: 0207 218 9000

M. Sykes
c/o whatdotheyknow.com

Ref: PF - 08-09-2010-104506-006 Sykes

Date: 20 September 2010

Dear Ms Sykes,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – CASE No PF – 08-09-2010-104506-006

Thank you for your e-mail to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 7 September 2010, which was considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 / Environmental Regulations 2004. Your request in full read:

Thank you for the information that 60 uniformed Pashto linguists and 30 Dari linguists were serving in Afghanistan. As a corollary, please advise the ranks and Service, RN, RAF, Army, of:

1. The Pashto linguists
2. The Dari linguists

I can confirm that MOD holds the information you have requested, some of which you will find contained in the table below.

Substantive Rank	Dari	Pashtu
Junior Officer	10	10
Senior Officer	~	0
Junior Rank	~	20
Junior NCO	10	20
Senior NCO/WO	10	10
Grand Total	30	60

These military personnel are linguists trained to higher levels of language proficiency and are drawn from across the Services, RN/RM, Army and RAF. As the numbers are low in relative terms, further breakdown of the numbers provided in the table above by Service would potentially allow identification of individuals. Due to this, such operationally sensitive information is likely to be exempt from disclosure under FOI Section 24 (National Security) that refers to information which is exempt in order to safeguard national security; Section 26 (Defence) which provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the defence of the British Islands or of any colony, and the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant forces; and Section 38 (Health and Safety) which provides that information is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health or any individual or endanger the safety of any individual. A copy of the FOI Act can be found at: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2000/ukpga_20000036_en_1

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If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-xxxxxx@xxx.x). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed on original)

C M ADAMSON
JtCap-JW7