

From: Kim Humberstone, BA, ACA, MCIPD, Director of Corporate Services



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



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& Veterans Agency

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Our Reference:

SPVA/Sec/6/2/63

16 September 2008

Thank you for your e-mail of 19 August, to the Ministry of Defence Info Access Office requesting information about the award of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) medal. Your request is being treated as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The UDR medal was introduced in 1982 and was awarded to part time members of the UDR with 12 years continuous service since 1 April 1970. A clasp is issued for a further 6 years service. It was superseded by the Northern Ireland Home Service Medal in 1992, but the historical issue of the UDR medal continues.

I will answer your questions in the order in which you have raised them:-

How many UDR medals have been issued to date?

Prior to 1995 the total personnel who received the medal was 1,237. Some of these would also have received the clasp, however, it is not possible to identify these separately. Post 1995, when the records were computerised, a further 17 medals were issued, bringing the total number to 1,254. 57 clasps have also been issued during this period.

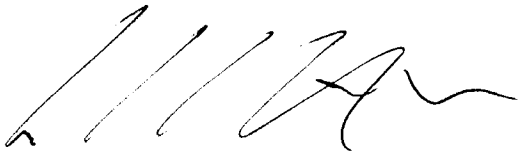
How many applications (either by the Regiment or personally by the soldier or officer) for the UDR medal have been refused?

This information is not held prior to 1995. Since then, however, there have been 35 applications for the UDR medal rejected and a further 3 applications for the clasp.

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 Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail info-XD@mod.uk). 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>.

I hope this explains the position.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'I. A.', written in a cursive style.

CONSTITUTION UNIT FOI ACT 2000 EVALUATION STUDY

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.