

From: Kim Humberstone, BA, ACA, FCIPD, Head of Corporate Services



**Service Personnel and Veterans Agency**

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GL3 1HW  
Tel: 01452 712612

Mr Gavin Bamford

Our Reference:

SPVA/Sec/6/7/65  
FOI /47/10

*Dear Mr Bamford,*

23rd November 2010

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 October which again asks for details concerning rejected applications for the Elizabeth Cross relating to those linked to the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) or the Royal Irish Regiment (RIR). Your email has been considered as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000). You asked:

The reasons why the 37 applications linked to the UDR/RIR were rejected under the four recognised categories.

Whilst it is not possible to group the 37 rejected applications according to the four categories listed in my letter of 1 October (which were the eligibility criteria to the Elizabeth Cross), they can be categorised as follows:

- 1) 22 died of natural causes whilst "off duty"
- 2) 7 were killed in road traffic accidents whilst "off duty"
- 3) 4 were accidental deaths whilst "off duty"
- 4) 2 died outside of the Northern Ireland operational area
- 5) 2 died after they were discharged from service.

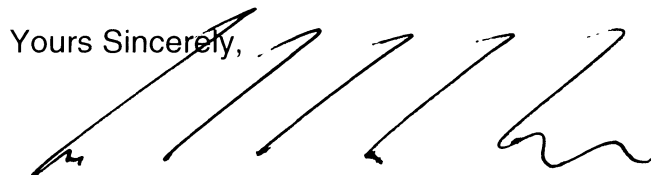
If you are unhappy with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible, and you are still dissatisfied, then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@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.ico.gov.uk>.

I hope this reply is helpful and explains the position.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several stylized, overlapping loops and a final flourish.

Kim Humberstone  
Head of Corporate Services