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





Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Room 36d Building 182 RAF Innsworth Gloucester GL3 1HW

Tel: (01452) 712612 Ext 5159

Fax: (01452) 510866

Mr Gavin Bamford request-1852-ee3a1b9 @whatdotheyknow.com Our Reference:

SPVA/Sec/6/2/63

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

The ACSM was introduced in 1994 and is awarded for 1080 days service in certain medal earning areas, with a clasp awarded for each further period of 1080 days.

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

How many ACSMs have been issued to former UDR soldiers and officers to date?

1,416 ACSMs and 1,621 clasps have been issued to UDR personnel to date.

How many applications for the ACSM have been refused?

173 applications for the ACSM and 37 applications for clasps have been refused to date.

What are the main reasons for refusal?

The application did not meet the qualifying criteria.

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 is explains the position.

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 cooperation 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.