



Ministry  
of Defence

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Mr Carl Tritton

20 October 2015

E-mail address: [request-294217-xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx](mailto:request-294217-xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx)

Dear Mr Tritton,

Thank you for your email of 27 September 2015 requesting the following information:

*How many current Army cadet force volunteers who have been ,*

*Newly appointed*

*returned from leave of absence*

*returned from a leave of absence for criminal proceedings to take place*

*in the last six months have a criminal record or caution? Tabulated per county*

*How many ACF volunteers with a criminal record or caution were enrolled per county in the last 10 years?' Tabulated per county*

I note you also sent an email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on 3 October 2015 requesting the following information:

*Please provide the current number of CFAV suspended from duty at the date of this request pending investigations relating to any disciplinary matters*

*please detail numbers of offices and NCO,s separately per ACF county*

I am treating your correspondence as requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that the MOD holds information on the subject you have requested, however, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because the information is not held centrally; retrieval and extraction would require accessing the personal files of each of the 9,170 Army Cadet Force Volunteers. It is estimated this would take 1,834 hours of aggregated effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600, or 24 hours of aggregated effort. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests where they relate to any extent, to the same or similar information provided certain conditions are met. These are where the FOI requests:

- are made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- are received within any period of 60 consecutive working days; and

Under Section 12(4) of the FOI Act, provided these conditions are met, the Department is permitted to regard the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them for the purpose of considering whether complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. For example, if you were to reduce the scope of your request to 'how many Army Cadet Force Volunteers have been newly appointed within the past 6 months.' I regret that the other parts of your request would each individually breach the cost constraint detailed above. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

If you are not satisfied 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 Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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 remain dissatisfied 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.