



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2019/09499

E-mail: TOG-FOIandPQ@mod.gov.uk

Jake Hurfurt
request-597329-
53da064e@whatdotheyknow.com

10 September 2019

Dear Jake Hurfurt,

Thank you for your email of 14 August requesting the following information:

"Please give me the details of:

- The severance/redundancy/(whatever name is correct) payments for all government ministers (Cabinet down to parliamentary undersecretary) when they left office*
- The severance/redundancy payments for any advisers/SPADS relating to each minister*

Please provide for the duration of time since the 2015 General Election"

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held.

However, the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 21 (reasonably accessible by other means) and qualified exemptions provided for at section 22 (future publication) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are not obliged to provide information that is intended for future publication. In line with the terms of this exemption, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, I have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to know that severance payment information made to Ministers and SPADs on loss of office is available in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts (ARAc), link to website containing an index of ARAc publications: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-annual-reports> for ARAc 2018-19, this information relating to Ministers can be found on page 131 and SPADs page 142.

The information for severance payments made from 1 April 2019 will be published in ARAc 2019-20 during summer 2020.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, Ground 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 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 normally 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Top Office Group Business Manager