



Ministry
of Defence



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Defence Equipment & Support
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MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol, BS34 8JH



Mr Asbury
request-511494-74b88d16@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: FOI2018/10768

Date: 18 September 2018

Dear Mr Asbury,

Thank you for your email of 20th August 2018 which requested the following information:

I would like detailed information on the benchmarks and bench marking process used to work out DE&S staff pay awards for 2016/17/18 as the information has been refused by DE&S several times

I am treating your email as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. However, we believe that some of the information falls within the scope of qualified exemption Section 43 (Commercial Interests). As such it is necessary for us to decide whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The FOI Act requires us to respond to requests promptly and no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies and a public interest test has to be conducted, the Act allows the response time to be longer than this. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and we estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to take a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. We therefore plan to respond by 16th October 2018.

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, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,
DE&S Secretariat