

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



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



Service Personnel
& Veterans Agency

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Room 36d
Building 182
Imjin Barracks
Innsworth Gloucester
GL3 1HW
Tel: 01253

Mr Gavin Bamford

Our Reference:

SPVA/Sec/6/7/62
FOI /24/10

15 June 2010

Dear Mr Bamford,

Thank you for your e-mail of 16 May which asks for details concerning recipients of the Elizabeth Cross 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:

- 1) For a listing (as at May 2010) of all recipients of the Elizabeth Cross linked to the UDR or RIR detailing their names, the deceased persons name, date person died, whether ex UDR or RIR and any other relevant information ?
- 2) How often the listing is updated?
- 3) If the full listing is available on-line on the internet and if not, when will it be?

Details of the recipients of the Elizabeth Cross are exempt from release under Section 40 of the FOIA 2000 – "Information that constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject". The release of the names of the recipients or those of the deceased relatives is also deemed to be exempt under Section 38 of the Act – "Information likely to endanger the physical or mental health or safety of any individual".

You may also wish to note that under current MOD guidelines, personal details concerning deceased personnel are not released unless they died 25 years ago, or more.

What I can say, however, is that a total of 264 awards of the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scrolls have been issued to the families of deceased members of the UDR and RIR. Of these, 232 were in respect deceased UDR personnel, and 32 in respect deceased RIR personnel.

Although the list of recipients is updated as and when applications are received from relatives of the deceased, and issues made, for the reasons outlined above a full listing is unlikely to be made available online in the foreseeable future.

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,



Kim Humberstone
Head of Corporate Services

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 co-operation 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."