



Ministry  
of Defence

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Mr Colin Lindley

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01 June 2015

Dear Mr Lindley

Thank you for your email of 9 April and subsequent clarification of 23 April requesting the following information:

*'Are records kept of Junior Recruit to the Guards Depot in the 1980s?*

*1The numbers left the Colours before 6 months?*

*2Numbers who wanted to leave in 6 months but were refused due to parental decision?*

*3 Number of Attempted suicides or self harm to Junior Recruits at the Guards Depot in training in the 1980s?*

*4 Were there any deaths of Junior Recruits?*

*5 If so what were the causes?*

*6 Does this information include junior Leaders?*

*7 Were there any issues concerning the inappropriate actions of training staff towards Junior Recruits brought to the attention of the Command Staff ie[What was known by The Guards Commandant in his 'Kremlin']?*

I am writing to advise you that although some of the information you have requested may be held by the MOD, we will not be able to answer your request because it would exceed the appropriate limit. 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. 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.

The information you have requested is not held centrally and to confirm whether or not it is held, we would need to check the Personal file of every junior recruit who began training in the 1980s. It is estimated that to locate, retrieve, and extract information in scope of your request would involve searching at least 62,000 manual files, and this would take a minimum of 1378 man days of effort. I am afraid that we are unable to advise you on how you may adjust your request to bring it within the cost limit.

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/>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat