



# Ministry of Defence

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Our Reference: FOI2015/07378

[REDACTED]

Reply to: [REDACTED]

22 September 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your enquiry dated 24 August 2015 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in which you requested the following information regarding the Legion d'Honneur:

1. How many applications for the Legion D'Honneur awards for WW11 veterans have been received
2. How many have been passed to the French Authorities
3. How many have been approved by the French authorities and notified to MoD
4. When is the planned cessation of the approval process
5. What arrangements are in place in the UK for the formal notification and physical award of the medal

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000. Following a search of our records, I can confirm that the MOD does hold some information relating to your request. For ease of reference the responses have been numbered in accordance with your original questions.

- 1) The MOD does not hold information on the number of applications received on a month-by-month basis. To date we have received 4132 applications, but application forms continue to arrive.
- 2) The application forms received by the MOD have not been passed to the French authorities on a monthly basis. Up to the end of March 2015, 3200 cases had been submitted to the French (the majority in November/December 2014); after that point the forwarding of cases was suspended due to the backlog of cases that had built up in the French system. Since 1 July 2015, we have been re-submitting the cases that form the French backlog under a new administrative arrangement.
- 3) This information is not held by the MOD. However we have now been notified that 597 awards have been approved since the re-submission process commenced.
- 4) The MOD continues to receive applications for the Legion d'Honneur and therefore an end date for processing applications cannot be estimated.

5) The Presentation of the awards is a matter for the French authorities. We understand that the majority will be sent in the post.

I hope that this information is helpful.

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, 1st 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 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

Defence People Secretariat FOI