Dear XX XXXXXXX

Thank you for your letter of 20th December 2008 to the Info-Access-Office at the Ministry of Defence, regarding The Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal (QGJM). In accordance with standard Departmental procedures your letter has been passed to this branch of the Ministry of Defence and I have been asked to reply.

You asked a number of questions about the QGJM under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 but as the Act refers to ‘recorded information’ and most of your questions are not asking for recorded information we have answered your questions outside the boundaries of the Act.

Your request for information has largely been directed to the wrong Government Department. Arrangements to introduce a QGJM were organised by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Several other Government Departments were involved, including the Ministry of Defence as it was intended to award the medal to Service personnel. The Home Office was also involved as the medal was intended for serving members of the Emergency Services. The Cabinet Office played a crucial role as the proposals for the medal had to be channelled through the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals (HD Committee) and thence to The Queen for Her approval. The HD Committee is administered by the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Secretary Chairs the committee and the Ceremonial Officer is the Secretary. I can, however, attempt to answer some of your questions.

It is not known who first proposed the introduction of a QGJM. However, as the Queen’s Coronation Medal was instituted in 1952 and the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal (QSJM) was issued in 1977 it was always going to be a possibility. Undoubtedly a proposal to introduce a Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 will be similarly considered by the appropriate Government Departments, in due course.

As far as I am aware, the case for the QGJM was submitted to the HD Committee through the Ceremonial Secretariat at the Cabinet Office by DCMS. DCMS should be able to provide you with details.
You should direct questions about the HD Committee to the Ceremonial Secretariat at the Cabinet Office. It would not be appropriate for the Ministry of Defence to comment on a committee for which it is not responsible.

You should direct your question about the qualifying criteria for the QGJM, associated Debates in Parliament, what options were dismissed and why it was decided to submit a case for a five year qualification, to the DCMS. They should have the necessary records to respond.

I asked the Ministry of Defence Medal Office to find out the unit cost of the QGJM. They contacted the Royal Mint, which manufactured the medal. I was advised that the cost for each medal was £16.30 plus VAT.

As far as I can determine there was no total budget allocated “for the creation and distribution of the QGJM”. There was no limit placed on the number of medals that were to be issued and each Department issued the medals to the individuals for whom they were responsible who met the published qualifying criteria. Although the medal was first issued in 2002, it is still issued by the Ministry of Defence Medal Office if an individual has not previously applied and meets the qualifying criteria. In contrast, finite numbers of the QSJM were issued, and an allocation was predetermined for the Armed Forces.

As more than one Government Department has responsibility for issuing the QGJM I cannot provide you with the number of such medals that have been issued. However, the Ministry of Defence Medal Office advised me that as at 12th January 2009 the following QGJMs had been issued:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>94,222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy &amp; Royal Marines</td>
<td>32,273</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAF</td>
<td>38,889</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>165,503</td>
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With regard to your final question, as I mentioned above, the QGJM was manufactured by the Royal Mint.

I hope this provides you with some of the answers you requested.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

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