



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
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SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

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3 June 2014

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your request of 11 May 2014 in which the following information was requested:

"A) A total count of all serving transgender (male-to-female) personnel serving within the armed forces of the United Kingdom.

B) Sexual health provisions for all personnel on duty.

C) Anti-stalking and anti-rape protection advice for trans male to female personnel both civilian engaging in consensual sex sale and trans personnel employed in the military who chose to have sexual relationships."

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Parts A and C of this FOI request are exempt from being answered because the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (GRA 2004) provides transgender people with legal recognition in their acquired gender.

Section 22 of the GRA 2004 establishes a right to privacy for a transgender individual in that it is a criminal offence for a person to disclose information that he or she has acquired in an official capacity, about an individual's application for a GRC or about the gender history of an applicant. Only in very exceptional circumstances such as for medical purposes in an emergency, could information about an individual's gender be revealed. As this does not apply in this instance, it would be illegal for the MOD to release the information in an FOI response.

Regarding Part B of this FOI request, trainees are given a briefing on sexual health as a routine part of their training. When Service personnel are briefed for operations or deployment, sexual health is included in the health brief delivered as part of the pre-deployment briefings. For Joint Operations sexual health is included in the briefings provided by the Joint Health Briefing Team as part of the Reception, Staging and Onward Integration.

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 (email 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Personnel Secretariat