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22 July 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence dated 16 July 2014 requesting information on Royal Navy Chaplains undertaking Commando Training if serving with 3 Commando Brigade. Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the Department holds the information you have requested. Taking your points in order:

Q1. Could you tell me if Chaplains serving with the Royal Navy are required to be Commando trained if they are serving within a unit of 3 Commando Brigade?

A1. There is no requirement but it is custom and practice for a chaplain to be commando trained when serving with the Royal Marines and this will be completed where possible. The minimum requirement would be completion of extra military training.

Q2. Could you also tell me if they do all the same tests as the soldiers, sailors and marines?

A2. The tests completed are the same as for all Royal Marines with the exception of weapon handling. They are taught how to make a weapon 'safe' but do not take part in any other weapon handling/training.

Q3. Finally could you tell me how many Commando trained Chaplains there are in the Royal Navy?

A3. There are currently 10 Chaplains who are commando trained in the Royal Navy.

You should be aware that to clarify this data the manpower statistics are rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded up, with any numbers less than 5 to be shown as '~'.

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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

A solid black horizontal bar used to redact the signature of the sender.