



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our Reference: FOI2015/03034

[REDACTED]

16 April 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 16 March in which you requested the following information:

In the event of a World War 3, is there a plan to bring back the draft to ensure Britain can defend itself? If there is, would there be civilian- military role conversions? For example, would Airline Pilots be transferred to fly fighter jets and would civilian doctors transfer to their military equivalent?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD, and I can confirm that some information, in scope of your request is held. The information you requested can be found in the attached annex.

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 Personnel Secretariat

The Government has no current plans to reintroduce National Service. You may be interested to learn that since 1963, it has been the policy of successive Governments that the best way of providing for the defence of our country is by maintaining Armed Forces manned by volunteers.

The demanding nature of our defence roles today is such that we must have highly trained professional men and women who are dedicated and able to make full use of modern, sophisticated equipment and the associated tactics and strategies.

Given the nature of our defence roles, it is most important that the men and women of our Armed Forces are personally committed to giving their best in defending our country and its allies. This clearly could not be guaranteed of every individual recruited under conscription terms. If unwilling recruits were to serve alongside the professional men and women of our Armed Forces, it could damage morale and possibly undermine recruitment. If, on the other hand, National Service recruits were to be kept separate from other units, it would be difficult to find a proper and meaningful role for them, which would make it hard to motivate them and maintain discipline.