



Ministry of Defence Police

Data Protection Officer & Freedom of
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Date: 8 December 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: MEDIA HANDLING.

I acknowledge receipt of your e-mail of 10 November 2014, which we are treating as request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your e-mail of 10 November 2014, you requested the following information:

Could you please provide me with the policy and guidance for the MOD Police making media statements and the release of information of individual cases to the media.

Specifically,

- 1. What information regarding an investigation would be deemed releasable and how is authority given for media statements/interviews etc?*
- 2. What guidance is given to Officers prior to statements, question and answer sessions during TV/Radio or other interviews are given?*
- 2. What information type would not be released to the media?*
- 3. When would information be released to the media and why? Aims and objectives of media releases etc...*

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held:

1. What information regarding an investigation would be deemed releasable and how is authority given for media statements/interviews etc?

On the infrequent occasions when an MDP officer wishes to speak to the media on a case or issue (media handling is as the policy states mostly a matter for the Press Office at Force HQ), authority to do so is given by the MDP press officer, so long as the matter is not of importance or controversy in which case either the press officer would deal with it or one of the Chief Officers would be consulted and their instruction followed. What is releasable to media in respect of an investigation would depend on what was asked for. In general, a press officer will release (if asked by media): that an arrest had taken place (gender, age and general home location of suspect), together with an indication as to what offence he/she was suspected of; whether there were any bail arrangements, and whether the arrest was part of a wider investigation. If/when the suspect is charged, his/her name would be released in addition, together with details of first court appearance. This mirrors standard police force practice across England & Wales.

2. What guidance is given to Officers prior to statements, question and answer sessions during TV/Radio or other interviews are given?

An officer given authority to speak to media would receive guidance from the MDP press officer.

2. What information type would not be released to the media?

See response to Q1 above. Suspects are not named at arrest stage but are named after charge. Nothing would be released to media that might compromise criminal justice proceedings

3. When would information be released to the media and why? Aims and objectives of media releases etc...

In virtually all cases, information is released to media reactively (media approach the press office for information). MDP issues very few press releases pro-actively, and these nearly always relate to a corporate matter (eg launch of new equipment - such as vehicles, weapon system etc). The aim would be to publicise the new kit.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 Team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London 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 the 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 rectangular box used to redact a signature.