

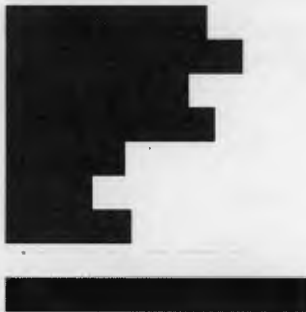


Ministry
of Defence

Headquarters Surgeon General Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2015/00267

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4 February 2015

Dear 

Thank you for your e-mail dated 7 January 2015 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in which you made the following request for information:

- 1. When were mandatory hearing tests introduced for members of the UK Armed Forces?*
- 2. May I please have an electronic version of the policy published by the Ministry of Defence dealing with the aforesaid mandatory hearing tests.*
- 3. When was Personal Interfaced Hearing Protection (PIHP) introduced for personnel being deployed on OPERATION HERRICK?*
- 4. May I please have a copy of the policy published by the Ministry of Defence for the introduction and distribution of PIHP to personnel being deployed on OPERATION HERRICK.*

Your enquiry has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. The MOD holds information within the scope of your enquiry and I will answer your points in turn.

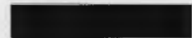
1. In 1976 hearing tests were introduced as part of the PULHEEMS system. The PULHEEM standards are designed to provide a framework for the medical assessment of functional capacity of potential recruits and serving personnel from which can be derived a determination of fitness for service.
2. I enclose a copy of the relevant policy from 1976 (Joint Service Publication 346 – PULHEEMS – A Joint Service System of Medical Classification). I regret this is not available electronically. Please let me know if you require the latest policy or that which was extant at an earlier point in time.
3. PIHP was available for use on Operation HERRICK from 26 March 2009.
4. I enclose a Note dated 26 March 2009 from the Director of Equipment at Headquarter Land Command to the Permanent Joint Headquarters, Navy Command, Air Command and others about

the Deployment of PIHP. I also include the document entitled "BATCIS IPT: Safe And Suitable For Service Use (S3) PIHP System Operational Use" that is referred in the Note.

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 the Headquarters of the Surgeon General 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd 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 FOIA. 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,



Headquarters of the Surgeon General