



From: DCDS Pers Secretariat
Zone J, Seventh Floor,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, London, SW1A 2HB.

Our Reference:
05-02-2010-095736-001

Date: 16 March 2010

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 March which has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It has been passed to my department and I have been asked to respond.

You have asked the following question:

I am requesting a Freedom of Information Request from the Ministry of Defence to find out the number of Conscientious Objectors who have been refused to fight in warfare from 1 January 1990 to 1 January 2000.

The Ministry of Defence has a well-established procedure for Service personnel who, during their service, develop a genuine conscientious objection to further military service. Such cases are handled administratively by the Service concerned and are dealt with first by the individual's chain of command. If the conscientious objection is considered genuine, arrangements are made for the applicant to be discharged from the Services on compassionate grounds. The number of applications received for discharge from the Armed Forces on grounds of moral, religious or political objection from each Service for each year since 1 January 1990 to the 1 January 2000 is set out below.

Royal Navy

For the period requested there were 13 applicants who applied for conscientious objector status.

Army

For the period requested there was 1 applicant who applied for conscientious objector status.

Royal Air Force

For the period requested there is no historical data on Conscientious Objectors.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

DCDS (Personnel & Training) Secretariat

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In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The MOD therefore will be simultaneously posting the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context, in our online FOI Disclosure Log at <http://www.foi.mod.uk>.

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 Head of Corporate Information, 6th 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>.