



Ministry  
of Defence

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8 September 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 27 August 2014 requesting the following information:

"I am an author currently working on a fictional novel. However part of the story takes place at Bletchley Park at the end of the war and then proceeds to make the journey back to the present day. Being extremely cautious about historic fact, I am anxious to know about the official secrets act. Assuming any person male or female would be obligated to abide by the OSA during the war, would there be a cut-off point where they were no longer bound by it? I am aware that post war, the conflict Churchill had with Stalin meant that lips were sealed for many years. However more and more information seems to be being released about Bletchley and the colossal importance of their work there during the war. I do hope you can help."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Within Defence all civil servants, military personnel and contractors are required to sign an Official Secrets Act (OSA) and Confidentiality Declaration Form upon appointment. The form draws their attention to their obligations to the OSAs 1911 to 1989 and the fact that these obligations continue after termination of Crown service and are lifelong.

Here is a link to the OSA on the Gov.uk website:  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/6/contents>

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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

Defence Security