



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Telephone : +44 (0)20 721 89000

Our Reference: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13 August 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 8 August in which you requested the following information:

I would like a list of the schools with a TS (Teesside) postcode which have been visited by armed forces for the purposes of recruitment, for the last four years. Please could this information be supplied on a year by year basis, with the number of visits to each school per year listed.

I would also appreciate figures for the number of pupils/students who expressed an interest in signing up to the armed forces, as well as the figures of those who did sign up, from each school.

Any general background information about how the recruitment events are organised and ran would also be welcome, but I appreciate that this information may be held somewhere already. I'd be grateful if you could point me in the right direction, if that is the case.

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

I can confirm that the Armed Forces do not visit schools for the purposes of recruitment or hold recruitment events within schools.

It is not possible to sign up for the Armed Forces outside of a recruitment office and all recruitment into the UK Armed Forces is voluntary. Furthermore, no young person under the age of 18 years can join our Armed Forces unless their application is accompanied by the formal written consent of their parent or guardian and they are over the age of 16.

You may be interested to learn that school visits by Service personnel are by invitation from the school and are not part of a recruitment campaign, but rather are events to support regular school activities. The Armed Forces are an integral part of society and an important, highly valued public service. School visits by members of our Armed Forces are of great benefit to pupils and the three Services have a duty to explain to

children their role to protect the nation, and also pass on valuable skills such as leadership, teamwork and citizenship.

In addition to delivering presentations on the role of the Armed Forces in society, activities based around team building tasks and leadership can take place. Additionally, the Army in Education programme provides schools with curriculum support activities and resources to assist with the delivery of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) programmes and Employability Skills Workshops.

Similar contributions to schools are made by police, fire, ambulance, emergency and other services and professions. The Armed Forces get numerous informal and official requests from schools every year and get no special treatment or access, but neither should they be excluded or discriminated against.

I hope the above information will be helpful to you.

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,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.