



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building (M/D)
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2014/[REDACTED]

Email to: [REDACTED]

9 January 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 7 December 2014 in which you requesting the following information:

'I have been trying to find an online copy of the 2000 Military Covenant, however, it is unavailable on the websites of the Military and the Ministry of Defense. Would it be possible to ask for a soft copy via email?'

I am writing to confirm that your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I must advise that your request is exempt under the FOI Act because the document you have named/requested does not exist.

However, noting the subject title used in your email, I enclose herewith a copy of the following Army Doctrine Publication of the same name, which was scanned into pdf by the UK Army Historical Branch: *'Soldiering – The Military Covenant, Army Doctrine Publication, Volume 5, February 2000'*.

To further assist I would like to advise that the term military covenant was introduced in 2000 to refer to the mutual obligations between the UK government and its Armed Forces. Over several years what became known as the Armed Forces Covenant was enshrined in law in the Armed Forces Act 2011. The legislation obliges the Defence Secretary to report annually on progress made by the government in honouring the covenant.

The Armed Forces Covenant itself is not a legal document, but its key principles set out the relationship between the nation, the Government and the Armed Forces. It recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to members of the armed forces and their families, and it establishes how they should expect to be treated.

Additionally, you may be also be interested in the attached International Affairs and Defence Section Standard Note (reference SN/IA/5979) along with the document 'The armed forces covenant: today and tomorrow' which was published in May 2011 when the covenant was enshrined in law in the Armed Forces Act 2011.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Defence Personnel Secretariat

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, 1st 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>