



# Ministry of Defence

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5 August 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 24 July to the Army's Recruiting Group in which you request the following:

*'My nephew, [REDACTED] was successful in a recent Selection Process at Glencorse and was offered a post as a Driver in Royal Logistics Corps. He was even given a start date of 27th October. It was then decided in the Pre-Employment checks that he did not pass the recently imposed security vetting for candidates coming in from certain countries.*

*For us to be able to put together an effective appeal against this decision, I find that the reason given was sufficiently and purposely vague for it to be impossible to appeal effectively and give reasoned arguments.*

*It is this reason why I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act on the "recent review in security policy and to which countries to which it will apply" and how those changes affect someone whose application started in February 2014.*

- 1) what date it was implemented*
- 2) how it was to be implemented ie) blanket ban from date of introduction?*
- 3) how many applicants have been affected by this policy since it was implemented.'*

1. The policy in question relates to procedural changes in security checks for potential Army recruits. There is a requirement for all Army candidates to undergo security vetting procedures prior to entry. The level and type of security check depends on the role being applied for, and the circumstances of the individual. Minimum UK residency requirements apply, depending on the type of vetting procedure. The Counter Terrorism Check (CTC) is required for those fulfilling certain conditions relating to residency and nationality. The revised policy was issued on 21 March 2014 and was implemented with immediate effect. It therefore applied to all those who had live applications on that date, as well as those who applied subsequently. For your information the policy directive is enclosed at Annex A. Some details have been redacted under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act, which relates to personal information.

2. The requirement to undergo relevant security vetting prior to enlistment is not itself new. The changes implemented on 21 March allow Regular and Reserve candidates to be enlisted and to commence training once an application for the relevant security check has been submitted, rather than waiting for the result of the application to be received. There is no change to the requirement for CTC clearance for those with links to certain countries, or to the required periods of UK residency.

3. Data on how many applicants have specifically been discharged due to a lack of CTC clearance since 21 March 2014 is not held.

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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd 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,

Army Secretariat

Annex:

A. Procedural Changes In Security Checks For Potential Army Recruits.