



## Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2015/04427 RFI:105/15  
Date: 17 June 2015

[REDACTED]  
By email – [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: RECRUITMENT CHECKS

I refer to your email of the 19 May 2015 which was acknowledged on the 20 May 2015.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

**“It is a matter of public record that in 2012 a Metropolitan Police Officer (Simon Harwood) was sacked for gross misconduct following an incident at the 2009 G20 in which he used excessive force against a member of the public (Ian Tomlinson) who later died.**

**It subsequently became known that this police officer had resigned from the Metropolitan Police in 2001 on medical grounds despite facing internal charges for a road rage incident. He then went on to join Surrey Police in 2003 however he was never asked about his police disciplinary record on his application forms and he went on to continue his police career.**

**This sort of situation should not be allowed to happen again.**

**Under the FOIA please tell me:**

**SPECIFICALLY what checks the MOD Police conduct on applicants (for position of Police Officer/Special Constable) for the purpose of uncovering previous service with the police and/or previous disciplinary action whilst serving.**

**I understand your application form requests these details however I wish to know what actions you take to ensure someone such as the above doesn't simply omit these details when applying. How do you ensure that information given about previous service (particularly where none is entered) is accurate and truthful”**

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

All potential MDP recruits are subject to extensive and robust background checks at each stage of the recruitment process. This includes checks of national databases such as the Police National Computer, Police National Database and local intelligence databases. The applicant agrees in the declaration on the application form that all details submitted are accurate. MDP carry out further checks of MDP data systems for each applicant in order to verify whether the applicant has previously served with the MDP - this will, where applicable also reveal information of any previous disciplinary action whilst serving with the force.

You may be interested in the attached links which relate to national police recruitment policy.

The College of Policing publish details of the eligibility criteria to become a police officer, together with details of pay and benefits, how to apply, etc, see below link:

<http://recruit.college.police.uk/Officer/Pages/eligibility.aspx>

In addition the Gov.uk website publishes the National Recruitment Standards - Eligibility Criteria for Police Recruitment and Consistent Recruitment Practices, which includes guidance on financial vetting and to applicants with criminal convictions, see below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-recruitment-standards-eligibility-criteria-for-police-recruitment-and-consistent-recruitment-practices>

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 Team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (email [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 the 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.org.uk>).

Yours sincerely

**MDP Sec Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office**