



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

16 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 17 March in which you requested the following information:

Details of the number of civilian staff who have been disciplined for viewing or downloading pornography on Ministry of Defence computers over the last three years.

I would also like the same information for military staff.

I would also like to know what action was taken against the individuals.

I would also like details of any official warnings given to staff to make them aware of the consequences of viewing pornography on service computers.

You clarified your Request on 16 April to:

With reference to your letter of 16th April 2015, by disciplined I mean Offences contrary to the Armed Forces Act and employment (administrative) action for breaches of Sy Operating procedures.

After advising you on 18 May, and then again on 17 June that your original request would exceed costs allowed under the Act, you reduced your request to the number of staff over the period January 2014 to December 2014.

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

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds information on the subject you have requested. Data is compiled by the MOD Information Security Incident Management Team, and they have recorded the following instances of Inappropriate Browsing between 1 January and 31 Dec 2014, broken down by employment type:

	Instances of Inappropriate Browsing
Military	30
Civilian	~
Contractor	~

It should be noted that totals are rounded in accordance with Defence Statistics rounding policy; therefore totals may not equal the sum of their parts. All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 with numbers ending in 5 rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid bias. All numbers less than five have been suppressed and presented as '~'.

These instances all involved the user visiting a website that had an inappropriate content of an adult nature.

An instance of this nature is only referred to the Service or MOD Police for further investigation if the content is of an illegal nature. If the content is not illegal but inappropriate, a report of the instance is reported to the Joint Security Co-ordination Centre and the matter is considered for further administrative/internal discipline action, and referred back to the appropriate business section for that action. The results of these referrals are not held centrally and disciplinary action could be taken in a number of ways, including dismissal.

To comply with the Sy Operating Procedures, staff are required to sign that they are aware of the MOD's Acceptable Use Policy of MOD Information Technology equipment and Telecommunications Networks. This does not specify pornography, but says that to knowingly use MOD IT to "access, store, or transmit offensive, indecent or obscene material or abusive images and literature" may result in disciplinary action.

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 Head of Corporate Information, 1st Floor, Zone N, 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>.

Yours sincerely

Defence People Secretariat