



# Ministry of Defence

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Our Reference: FOI2015/11716

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 17 December 2015 in which you requested the following information:

1. The number of individuals who have, as serving members of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, sought to be conscientious objectors from 2011 to 2015 inclusive, broken down by service and year. Where possible, please could you indicate which were successful, and which were sent to ACCO. This is a request to update information previously requested in FOI request 21-03-2011-114944-007, and using the template of that response may make fulfilling the request easier; and
2. Any minutes of meetings of ACCO held in 2014 and 2015, in whichever format is easiest to supply. I understand this may involve redaction, as described under S46 of the FOI act.

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD, and I can confirm that the MOD does hold some information within the scope of your request.

The Royal Navy have confirmed that one individual asked for conscientious objection to be taken into consideration during a Court Marshal case (2011) and a second individual was Administratively Discharged from Service (2014) following a request to be considered a conscientious objector. The Army have confirmed that they have no specific cases of individuals seeking to be considered a conscientious objector from 2011 to 2015. However, between 2011 and 2015 seven individuals were recorded as leaving the Army on 'compassionate grounds', this figure may or may not include individuals who cited reasons of conscience in their request, two 'compassionate' cases were recorded in 2014 and five in 2015. The Royal Air Force has confirmed that they have no recorded cases of individuals seeking to be conscientious objectors from 2011 to 2015.

The Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors (ACCO) only sits when cases are referred to them. No cases have been referred to the ACCO since 2010, and the committee has not met or produced minutes of meetings in 2014 or 2015.

I hope that this response 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, 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

  
Defence People Secretariat