



Ministry
of Defence

Headquarters Surgeon General Secretariat
Coltman House,
Defence Medical Services Whittington,
Lichfield,
Staffordshire
WS14 9PY

Ref: FOI2015/10419

E-mail: SGSecFin-SecGpMailbox@mod.uk

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Dear

Thank you for your email of 22 November 2015 requesting the following information:

"It has come to my attention that within the Joint services publication 346 it states as an example that potential candidates with a history of knee pain are not allowed to join the armed forces, yet it doesn't state this exact issue when answering the medical questionnaire for entry? Are you allowed to join the armed forces with a history of knee pain as it isn't very clear? There are a lot of conditions which are listed in the JSP which are not listed in the medical questionnaire before entry.

This has caused a lot of confusion with potential candidates leaving many disappointed and frustrated when given a decision they did not expect. Why is it not widespread enough when displaying medical conditions which are a bar to entry?."

Your enquiry has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) can confirm that it holds information within the scope of your enquiry.

While medical entry standards are set out in Joint Service Publication 950, how they are applied during the recruitment process differ between the three Services. In the Army, for example, candidates with a disbaring condition are excluded at the first opportunity (an online questionnaire) with those requiring individual consideration being looked at, if appropriate, at a later stage.

To provide you with more detail as to how a candidate with knee pain would be looked at during the application process it would be necessary to know which Service the applicant was applying for and, if possible, to have more details of the condition affecting the knee. Please provide further clarification along these lines should you require more information.

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 the Headquarters of the Surgeon General 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). 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 FOIA. 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,

Headquarters of the Surgeon General