



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2016/03532

[REDACTED]

Reply to: [REDACTED]

18 April 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 22 March 2016 in which you have requested the following information:

*“Reference to a letter from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Retd) in 2008 to [REDACTED], granddaughter of [REDACTED] VC.
What were the rules governing the issue of VC replacements before the “recent review” to which [REDACTED] refers? Please provide a copy of the rules before and after the review, and a complete record of the reasons for this change. ”*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information within the scope of your request.

However, your request is exempt under Section 21 of the FOI Act because the information is accessible to you by other means. The policy for replacement medals is set out in ‘Joint Service Publication 761, Honours and Awards in the Armed Forces’ (JSP 761). This JSP is a guide to the policy on the honours and awards which are available to members of the Armed Forces.

Version 2 of JSP 761 is dated May 2008 and version 3 is dated December 2009 but versions 2 and 3 of the JSP are virtually identical. The replacement policy (for all medals) was reviewed in 2009 but this did not result in change. The extant policy is available at the UK Government website below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/honours-and-awards-in-the-armed-forces-jsp-761>

Particular information relating to the replacement of medals is available at the MOD Medal Office website herewith:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-ministry-of-defence-medal-office#replacement-medals>

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 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 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