



Ministry  
of Defence

**Ministry of Defence**  
Defence Business Services Secretariat  
Room 6303  
Tomlinson House  
Norcross  
Thornton-Cleveleys  
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2016/11130

6 December 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 16 November 2016, to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*"The Veterans-UK definition of: A forces veteran in regard to employment"*

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

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

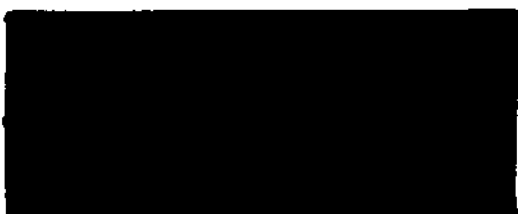
The Veterans UK definition of a Veteran is 'anyone who has ever served in HM Armed Forces'.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) it may also be helpful to note that there is no Service time restriction and the rationale for that is that if someone has an accident or serious injury in the first days of basic training, they would have access to all the support they need from the veterans community. However, not everyone has access to all services as individual charities and organisations may impose criteria for accessing some support. For Veterans UK services, Veterans UK would help anyone who had served, regardless of for how long they Served in HM Forces.

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, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [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 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



A/Head of DBS Secretariat