



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our Reference: FOI2015/07506

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 30 August in which you requested the following information:

Please tell me what's been done to allow royal marine spouses to transfer their employment from one office to another within the same company, in order to live with husband when you change their base after two years? I'd like to know what support their is in asking my employer to transfer me? I work for a private manages company in public ownership.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD, and I can confirm that the MOD does hold some data within the scope of your request; this is provided in the attached annex.

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

In May 2011 the Defence Secretary launched the Armed Forces Covenant. The Covenant recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to the Armed Forces Community and it establishes how they should expect to be treated.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) have identified a number of measures to improve spousal access to benefits and employment and to take account of the particular challenges they may face and are working together to explore the potential to develop these further. These include:

- A consultation exercise with national employers to assess their understanding of the issues and identify policies that might allow staff to transfer between locations. Once this exercise is complete, DWP will be in a position to engage further with employers to help increase opportunities for the Service community, including spouses.
- Improving communication of job opportunities for spouses and partners via contacts with employers, Jobcentres and existing Service community nodes such as the Service Families Federations, Help, Information, Volunteer, Exchange (HIVE) Centres and Community Centres. MOD and DWP are also considering the possible benefits of a formal scheme to record and recognise transferable skills.
- Options to widen employment opportunities for spouses within the public sector.
- Engaging with senior industry representatives to explore ways in which employers can support spousal employment and exploit their mobility through, for example, the uptake of mobile, short term or interim roles. We are also exploring the potential for employment insight days currently offered to Service Leavers to be extended to spouses.

- A new spousal employment support provision is being trialled to help eligible Service spouses optimise access to the employment market at a level commensurate with their skills, knowledge and experience and/or in accord with their aspirations and ability. The Career Transition Partnership (CTP) trial will offer spouses an employment support and job finding package and access to the online CTP resources, including the ability to build a Personal Employment Plan to identify the training and qualifications required to achieve their desired employment outcome.
- The MOD is in the process of developing a Families Strategy, and spousal employment will form a key strand of this work. The outline Strategy will be tested at the MOD Welfare Conference on 9 November 2015, the theme of which is 'The Family'.