



Ministry
of Defence Police

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[REDACTED]
By email – [REDACTED]

Our Ref: eCase: FOI2016/06443 RFI: 186/16
Date: 12th July 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: POLICE OFFICERS AND STAFF INVESTIGATED FOR BREACHING POLICE GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL MEDIA USE.

I refer to your email dated 21st June 2016.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email of the 21st June 2016 you requested the following information:

“Between January 2012 and June 2016 -

- 1. How many police officers and staff employees have been investigated for breaching police guidelines on social media use?**
- 2. For each investigation, please state the nature of the allegation.**
- 3. For each investigation, please state the rank (or pay grade) of the officer or civilian and the result - specifically whether an allegation was proven, and whether they were sacked / resigned / no further action.**
- 4. Please could I also have a copy of the force's current social media policy (if one is held), identifying guidelines for social media use?”**

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

1. How many police officers and staff employees have been investigated for breaching police guidelines on social media use?

Ten (10) Ministry of Defence Police Officers have been investigated for breaching police guidelines on social media use between January 2012 and June 2016.

No information is held in regards to Ministry of Defence Police civilian staff employees who have been investigated for breaching police guidelines on social media use between January 2012 and June 2016.

2. For each investigation, please state the nature of the allegation.

3. For each investigation, please state the rank (or pay grade) of the officer or civilian and the result - specifically whether an allegation was proven, and whether they were sacked / resigned / no further action.

Please see table at Annex A below.

4. Please could I also have a copy of the force's current social media policy (if one is held), identifying guidelines for social media use?"

A copy of the Ministry of Defence Police current social media guidelines can be found at the following web link.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/329509/Guidelines-socialmedia-v1-jan13.pdf

We can be clear that security is our top priority which is precisely why we have clear social media guidelines that help ensure conduct online is always lawful, appropriate and professional.

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 Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (email 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 the 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

MDP Sec Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office

ANNEX A to FOI 2016/06443 RFI 186-16 – POLICE OFFICERS AND STAFF INVESTIGATED FOR BREACHING POLICE GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL MEDIA USE.

Year Case Recorded	Nature of Allegation	Rank of Officer(s)	Case Result
2012	Inappropriate comments posted on social media account.	1 x Chief Inspector	Proven - Management Action given
2013	Posted inappropriate comment regarding a work related process on social media account.	1 x Constable	Proven - Management Action given
2014	Posted work related content on social media profile.	1 x Constable	Proven - Written Warning given
2014	Video taken of Officers whilst on-duty. Video later placed on social media.	3 x Constable	Proven - 1 x Final Written Warning given, 1 x Written Warning given, 1 x Retired/Resigned (no further action taken)
2014	Photographs of Officer in uniform placed on social media profile.	1 x Sergeant	Proven- Retired/Resigned (no further action taken)
2014	Inappropriate comments posted on social media account.	1 x Constable	Local Resolution - No Action taken.
2015	Inappropriate content posted on social media account.	1 x Constable	Proven - Management Action given
2016	Officer suspected to be in breach of social media guidelines.	1 x Constable	Not proven.