



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref: FOI2015/04722

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17 June 2015

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 May 2015 requesting the following information:

“The location of the meeting between the US Defence Attache, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, and other senior officials on 19 November 2014 as well as the names of all those in attendance.”

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 information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

The United States Defence Attaché met the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff at the Ministry of Defence Main Building in Whitehall, London, on 19 November 2014. Additional attendees at the meeting were the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff's Military Assistant.

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, <https://ico.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

Top Office Group Business Manager Deputy