



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2016/10757

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Reply to: ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████

25 November 2016

Dear ██████████ ██████████,

Thank you for your email of 10 November 2016 in which you have requested the following information:

“What advice was provided to Defence Ministers in order to make the decision that the LS&GC medal would not be awarded to otherwise eligible officers who had retired prior to 29 July 2014?”

Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that searches of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) records have confirmed that this Department does not hold information within the scope of this request.

However in accordance with FOI Act Section 16 (advice and assistance) I can advise you that it was not Defence Ministers that made the decision to harmonise the Long Service & Good Conduct (LS&GC) medal to make it available to officers. Harmonisation of the LS&GC was part of Sir John Holmes' independent Medal Review of 2015.

A copy of Sir John Holmes review is available on the Gov.uk site at this link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/military-medals-review-report-by-sir-john-holmes>

The review was conducted under the auspices of the Cabinet Office, and it is possible that they may be able to advise you which Ministers took the decision to harmonise the LS&GC eligibility.

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