



Ministry
of Defence

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6 April 2016

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to my letter of 1 March I have completed the public interest test for the following request you submitted on 10 February:

"may I please be more specific in my request, and be sent (via e-mail, and suitably redacted as you deem apt) the Herrick 8 guide as aforementioned, and the Herrick 20 guide. If it wouldn't be too burdensome, may I also have a middle guide, such as Herrick 14?"

If three guides are too burdensome, then may I have a single guide for the benefit of my study (perhaps 8 or 9)."

As I stated in my letter, I believed that some of the information in the documents you requested fell under the following qualified exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): Section 26 (Defence), Section 27 (International Relations) and Section 38 (Health and Safety). The public interest test required me to consider the arguments for and against release of the information concerned. The arguments for include the promotion of accountability and transparency of the Army and public awareness of Army operations in Afghanistan. The arguments against include the compromise of future operations and safety of our personnel as well as the civilian population and the affect some of the information being released may have on our relations with allies, which could also have an impact on future operations. Having considered the arguments both for and against release of the information concerned I have concluded that the arguments against release outweigh those for release as it is likely to be prejudicial to, or cause damage to, our Armed Forces, our personnel and to our relationships with key allies.

In addition to the qualified exemptions above, I have also withheld any information that identifies individuals who are not considered in the public domain such as names, faces of junior British and foreign military personnel and other foreign nationals under Section 40 of the FOIA (Personal Information). This is an absolute exemption under the Act and does not require a public interest test.

Given the above, I have attached redacted copies of the Operational Tour Guides for Operation Herrick 8 and 20.

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,



M Connolly
Disclosure and Litigation leader