



Ministry
of Defence

Ref: FOI2015/03865

Headquarters Surgeon General Secretariat
6th Floor Zone E
Ministry of Defence
Main Building, Whitehall
LONDON, SW1A 2HB

Email:

SGSecFin-SecGpMailbox@mod.uk

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 April requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

- a. ***Full Minutes for the Sep 23 2014 [SACMILL] meeting***
- b. ***Agenda and report packs for all SACMILL meetings in 2015 to date***
- c. ***The letter referred to in Agenda [Item] 10a (from SACMILL chair to Strategic Board Chair expressing concern over reporting of Taser use and injury stats to SACMILL)***
- d. ***The Triennial Review carried out on SACMILL in 2013/14***

Whilst the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information within the scope of your enquiry, it has been determined that some of it falls within the scope of a qualified exemption, subject to the balance of the public interest. I have now considered your request in line with these requirements and can give you the following information.

- a. ***Full Minutes for the Sep 23 2014 meeting***

A copy of the minutes is enclosed.

Some sections have been redacted, where material relates to policy discussions and is exempt under Section 35 of the FOIA, which allows for material related to the formulation or development of government policy to be exempt from release. It has been assessed that discussions by SACMILL about specific issues that may in the future be subject to a formal statement should fall under this exemption.

Information which refers to individuals by name is exempt under Section 40 of the FOIA. Ministry of Justice FOI Guidance on the Section 40 exemption states that there may be good reason not to disclose the names of those in a public facing role if there is good reason to think that disclosure of that information could put someone at risk. It may be

unfair processing to disclose the full names and work locations of those who carry out a role involving a risk of harassment or abuse.

In considering whether to disclose or withhold the information requested, SACMILL's status as a publicly-funded body, undertaking work that is of public interest, was considered, and it was found that it is reasonable, in the interests of transparency and public confidence in the process, for the details of all its discussions to be made public as far as possible under the FOIA.

However, it is also important that SACMILL Members should feel at liberty to question and discuss such issues in a free and objective manner. This could be adversely affected were they to know that such discussions might be made public.

b. Agenda and report packs for all SACMILL meetings in 2015 to date

A summary of the documents that fall under this part of your request is shown below:

Meeting	Serial	Papers	Released/ exempt
4 February – Technical Committee	1	Dstl review of documents pertaining to the WaWe9 water cannon system	Exempt - for future release (section 22)
26 March – 5 th Meeting	2	Agenda	Released - redacted version attached (sections 35, 40)
	3	Minutes of 4 th Meeting (23 Sept 2014)	Already requested separately at a. above
	4	Notes of Tech Committee meeting (4 Feb 2015)	Exempt - for future release (section 22)

Serials 1 and 4 relate to information intended for future release and are exempt from disclosure under Section 22 of the FOIA, as to make public now any information on issues where a formal decision has not been made might unduly prejudice a Minister's ability to make an informed and unbiased decision. The MOD has considered, in conjunction with the Home Office, whether or not the public interest would be best served by disclosing such information before the planned publication date and has concluded that it would not be for the reasons outlined above.

Serial 2 is attached. Some sections have been redacted as being exempt under Sections 35 and 40, for the same reasons given for the exemption applied to the information sought for **a.** above.

Serial 3 comprises the Minutes already specifically requested at **a.** above.

c. The letter referred to in Agenda 10a (from SACMILL chair to Strategic Board Chair expressing concern over reporting of Taser use and injury stats to SACMILL)

A copy of the letter is enclosed. Personal information has been redacted in accordance with the section 40 exemption (see under **a.** above).

d. The Triennial Review carried out on SACMILL in 2013/14

The Triennial Review has already been published on the SACMILL page of the www.gov.uk website. Section 21 of the FOIA allows for such material to be exempt from release in response to a specific request.

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,

Headquarters Surgeon General Secretariat