



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Our Reference: FOI2016/03862

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Reply to: ■■■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■ ■■■■

3 May 2016

Dear ■■■■ ■■■■■■,

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated 1 April 2016 in which you requested the following information:

“How many soldiers as serving members of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force sought to be conscientious objectors in each of the following years: 2010-2016?

Please indicate how many appeals were successful and unsuccessful in the first round and how many subsequent appeals through the Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objection were successful and unsuccessful.

Please separate the figures by service each year.”

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD, and I can confirm that the MOD does hold some information within the scope of your request.

Please note there are no soldiers employed in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines. However, the Royal Navy confirms that one individual asked for conscientious objection to be taken into consideration during a Court Martial case in 2011 and a second person was ‘Administratively Discharged’ from the Naval Service in 2014 following a request to be considered a conscientious objector. Under these terms there was one ‘Voluntary Withdrawal from Training’ in 2015 as well as one ‘Discharged - Best Interests of the Service’ in 2016.

Both the Army and the Royal Air Force have no confirmed cases from 2010 to 2016 of individuals seeking to be considered as conscientious objectors.

There was one appeal through the Advisory Committee on Conscientious Objectors (ACCO) in December 2010 from an individual in the Royal Navy, which was unsuccessful. The ACCO only sits when cases are referred to them and no cases have been referred to the ACCO since 2010.

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, 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat