



Ministry
of Defence

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[REDACTED]

23 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 23 May 2015 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in which you asked the following:

"I can accept that policy specifies the responsibility for treatment as firmly with the NHS, but how does the MOD, as the employer of reservists, manage occasions in which appropriate or timely occupational health treatment cannot be accessed?"

If there is a difference in occupational standards between the NHS and the military, how is that managed? Is there any process for referring such a decision, referred to above, by an NHS practitioner to a Defence practitioner?"

Your enquiry has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and the MOD can confirm that it holds information within the scope of your enquiry.

As you are aware, if a Reservist suffers from a condition not attributable to military service, treatment rests with the NHS. Anyone experiencing issues accessing treatment beyond the waiting times laid down in the NHS Constitution should pursue the matter through appropriate NHS channels. Information about this is available at the NHS Choices website [here](#). The Ministry of Defence does not intervene in this process.

In reference to your point about occupational standards: as in civilian life, standards vary dependent on the occupation of the individual. The single Services have their own policies relating to occupational standards: as with Regular personnel, Reservists who do not recover from illness or injury sufficiently to meet these standards will either be retrained or released in accordance with the single Services' employment policies.

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 the Headquarters of the Surgeon General 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 FOIA. 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 of the Surgeon General