



# Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
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Ref: [REDACTED]

3 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 15 June in which you requested the following information:

*I would be grateful if you could provide some background information on the veterans badge*  
*1. When did the badge come into being, when was it first issued? 2. Who originated the*  
*badge, who's (very good) idea was it that the badge be made and issued? 3. Is the crest that*  
*is on the badge subject to any copyright issues? 4. Would there be any type of discharge from*  
*any of the services that would preclude the issue of a badge to a veteran? 5. I am aware of*  
*the procedure to obtain a badge (I have one myself) is it possible to obtain the badge in*  
*bulk? Could an individual obtain large quantities of the badge from the official source? 6. Are*  
*the relevant agencies (MOD. Medals Office) aware of the growing numbers of these badges*  
*that are readily available from outlets such as Ebay?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed, and I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds some information.

Taking your questions in turn, in regard to Q1, Her Majesty's Armed Forces Veterans' Lapel Badge was launched in May 2004. The first veterans badge was issued to Lord Healey, a veteran of the Battle for Monte Cassino, on 10 May 2004. In regard to Q2, the MOD and veterans community helped in its creation, the aim of the badge was to overcome the long-held view that the status of veterans was not fully recognised, and was considered an appropriate way for veterans to demonstrate that they had served their country as members of the Armed Forces.

In regard to Q3 and Q4, this information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain at the following links:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/311992/20140515\\_MOD\\_Copyright\\_Licensing\\_Information.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311992/20140515_MOD_Copyright_Licensing_Information.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-medal-or-veterans-badge/apply-for-a-veterans-badge>

In regard to Q5, the badge is issued to individuals upon submission of the application form available on the GOV.UK website. It is not available from the Medal Office in bulk. In regard to Q6, once a badge has been issued to an individual, it becomes his or her property and we respect their right to dispose of their badge if they so choose. Badges of all sorts have a commercial value to collectors and, inevitably, some veterans – or their families after their death – will decide to sell

their own badge either privately or to a dealer who, in turn, will advertise and sell them on. This may well be the source of the items on Ebay to which you refer.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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