



Ministry of Defence

DBS/SEC/FOI/FOI2016/[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

26 April 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 March, requesting the following information:

"This request is in regards to the number of civil servants in your department who are also councillors.

- 1) *How many civil servants in your department have applied for permission from your department to stand for council seats from January 1st 2015?*
- 2) *How many of these requests were accepted, and how many were refused?*
- 3) *What conditions were imposed on those civil servants given permission to stand?*
- 4) *How many civil servants are there within your department who are currently serving councillors?*
- 5) *Please provide a breakdown of the numbers of councillors in your department that represent each political party.*

For example, you might respond that there are currently two Labour party, two Conservative party and three Green party councillors currently serving in your department as Civil Servants."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

MOD Civil Servants fall into one of the following groups, which determines their degree of political freedom:

The politically free group consists of all industrial and non-office grades. This group is allowed to take part in local political activities.

The politically restricted group consists of all staff in Pay Band B and above and members of the Fast Stream Development Programme, they may seek permission from their Line Management to take part in local political activities, but must comply with any conditions laid down by the MOD.

The intermediate group consists of staff who are in neither the politically free group nor the politically restricted group. Staff in the intermediate group must seek permission from

senior line management to take part in local political activities and must comply with any conditions laid down by the Department.

There is no facility to record whether an employee is a councillor or has sought permission from their line management to take part in local political activities (this includes candidature for, or co-option to, Local Authorities).

Employees who are councillors can be granted up to 18 days Special Paid Leave (24 for Mayors) to carry out their official duties. This is recorded on the Human Resources Management System as 'public duties' and is not broken down further to specify the type of duty being carried out, for example, as a councillor.

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,


A/Hd of Secretariat
Defence Business Services