



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
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Ref: FOI2015/04299

[REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

5 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 12 May 2015 requesting the following information:

"Please could you tell me how many armed forces recruits in the last five years were found to be under 16 years of age at the point of enlistment and what action was taken in each case?"

This has been considered as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm policy prevents enlistment under 16 years of age. Therefore, in answer to your question the number of Armed Forces recruits found to be under 16 years of age at the point of enlistment is nil. You may wish to know the MOD validates the identity of all candidates through a check of their relevant documents such as passport, birth certificate or driving licence.

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