



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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United Kingdom

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Our Ref: TRANS 04/01/02

[REDACTED]

07 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

As you are aware, your correspondence dated 26 May 2015 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

"I have read the MOD Permanent Secretary set of objectives published at the following webpage: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85933/objectives_jon_thompson.pdf

*These objectives include: **Deliver a 'liability review' of all posts down to Band B.** and also record a milestone of "**Complete 'liability review' by 30th November and agree implementation plan**"*

I write to request a copy of any "Liability Review" documents."

Following further communications on 08 June 2015 your request was clarified to be:

"The information that you provided (the 2014 response) provided me with the guidance necessary to clarify my request and I therefore write to request:

1. The response states "*The Defence Reform Unit (DRU) undertook the Liability Review in response to a key recommendation from Lord Levene's 2011 Defence Reform report. In doing so it provided guiding principles to all TLBs on 18 Nov 11*" I therefore write to request a copy of the guiding principles provided to TLBs (?) on 18 Nov 11.
2. The response states "*During the course of the Liability Review the DRU also requested and reviewed submissions from each TLB on how their proposed future senior structures would meet the requirements and intent of the Review.*" I

therefore write to request a copy of each request from the DRU and the submissions made by each TLB.”

This letter is to inform you that the MOD holds information related to your request. Please find attached a copy of the guiding principles provided to Top Level Budgets (TLBs) dated 18 November 2011 as requested in the first part of your email dated 8 June 2015. Please note that this document has been redacted for personal information only.

Turning to the request in the second part of your email dated 8 June 2015, we believe the information may fall within the scope of the following qualified exemptions: Section 35 (Formulation of Government Policy) and Section 36 (Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs). As such it is necessary for us to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The Freedom of Information Act requires us to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test has to be conducted, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in relation to your request, we estimate that it will take an additional 10 working days to take a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. We therefore plan to let you have a response by 21 July 2015. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion we will let you know.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st 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 of this letter.

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,

[Original signed]

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Attachments: “Defence Reform – Liability Review” dated 18 Nov 2011