



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 18 November where you requested information about;

A number of newspapers have recently reported that a senior serving general has stated that a future Labour government would face "a mutiny" if it attempted to introduce defence policies with which the armed forces disagreed (See, for example,

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_theim.es_1V45Mj4&d=AwlCaQ&c=axaOw2qHyp7zEDNbTjpgYA&r=338_LDuXi2CRJzQpHh2t-w&m=B6fKyZqB9zzHjzILSBbEEqZMUes8vna31Hq_NVTe2QQ&s=d4bt9YAD9q37VeOuUKYQlSo_KOU1ITccGCyvJ5oqgok&e= and https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_ind.pn_1F9e2au&d=AwlCaQ&c=axaOw2qHyp7zEDNbTjpgYA&r=338_LDuXi2CRJzQpHh2t-w&m=B6fKyZqB9zzHjzILSBbEEqZMUes8vna31Hq_NVTe2QQ&s=9xKwCnB1rAh2UsJQRH0FL2ivUpebN3u93rq_ItTkHw8&e=).

I should be grateful if you would provide me with the following information with regards to this matter.

- 1) Are serving military personnel permitted to make such statements under the terms of a) Queen's Regulations (particularly sections relating to political activities and electoral registration) and b) Defence Instruction Notice 2014DIN03-024?*
- 2) Was the officer in question given permission to make this statement?*
- 3) Is the Ministry of Defence aware of the identity of this officer?*
- 4) If so, has any disciplinary or other action been taken against the officer in relation to this matter?*
- 5) If not, has any investigation been undertaken with the aim of identifying the officer and taking appropriate action, and if no investigation has been undertaken, what are the reasons for this?*

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

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information. However, in order to be helpful in accordance with Section 16 of the Act, I have endeavoured to provide information which I believe is relevant to your questions and can confirm that the Chief of the General Staff ordered an urgent inquiry by the Royal Military Police to identify the Army officer quoted in the article. The inquiry has now concluded but the Royal Military Police were unable to identify the individual concerned.

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, 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 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat