



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref: FOI2016/11428

14 December 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 24 November requesting the following information:

"My name is [REDACTED] and I am an academic working at the University of Leeds. I am writing an article for publication in 'Journalism Studies' about a news media story which broke on 9 May 2014. The news story concerns photographs taken at Camp Bastion in September 2012 following an attack on the base by Taliban fighters. The photographs were taken by RAF regiment soldiers in September 2012 and depict a soldier posing next to a dead Taliban fighter. They were later leaked to LiveLeak website in April 2014, and reported on widely in May 2014. As reported at the time, the MoD said a military investigation had been launched and two servicemen, from the RAF, were withdrawn from front-line duties (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/10821586/Senior-officer-defends-men-who-gave-thumbs-up-next-to-body-of-dead-fighter.html>). I would like to know if a military investigation took place into the taking and leaking of the photographs, and what the outcome was (i.e. were the personnel involved disciplined)? I am not asking for names of those involved (or other sensitive information), just whether the investigation was able to reach a conclusion; and whether those involved were disciplined following the investigation".

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 within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information within the scope of your request is held.

I can confirm that a military investigation was undertaken and completed regarding the taking and leaking of photographs following an attack on Camp Bastion by Taliban fighters in September 2012. I can also confirm that administrative action was taken against the personnel involved.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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 normally 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 black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Air Command Secretariat.

Air Command Secretariat