



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2015/04089

1 May 2015

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 29 April requesting the following information:

“does taking part in an activity such as a ski event organised by the armed forces count as:

- 1) Normal duty
- 2) Unpaid leave
- 3) Annual leave
- 4) Any other option not covered by the above

Referring back to my original question, how many person-days of armed forces' time was spent on officially sanctioned recreational activities (assuming that these personnel are not taking leave during these events)?”

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

MOD Armed Forces personnel are considered to be on duty and at work when they represent their units, single Service teams or the Combined Service team by participating in authorised Service sport. Recreational activities are considered to be those outside of working time, and we therefore do not hold information on this issue.

The MOD Armed Forces Physical Development Policy acknowledges the important part that sport plays in overall Service life; sport contributes to operational effectiveness, fighting spirit and personal development and so it has direct benefit to the individual and the Service. In addition, it recognises the time demands which sport can make on an individual in terms of training and competing. The needs of the Service remain paramount, but every effort is made to foster and encourage Service personnel with a genuine talent, because the Armed Forces have much to gain by capitalising on the achievements for recruiting, retention and public relations.

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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,