



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2017/07020

Reply to: [REDACTED]

31 July 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 15 July 2017 requesting the following information:

"I want to know when the recruitment of commonwealth citizens who haven't stayed in the UK before will be in effect."

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

In a Written Statement on 12 May 2016, the Minister for the Armed Forces observed the long tradition of Commonwealth citizens serving in the British Armed Forces, and that their service provides an important contribution in defending the UK. The written statement confirmed that the Commonwealth recruitment rules which require five years' UK residency have therefore been reviewed.

Please note that the residency requirement was lifted immediately after the statement was made in the House, and we commenced recruiting Commonwealth citizens from summer 2016 onwards.

The Written Statement published in Hansard is available at the link below:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-05-12/debates/16051233000016/CommonwealthRecruitment>

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly 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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat FOI