



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2017/03425

Reply to: [REDACTED]

6 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

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

"I am writing to request any regulations, instructions, or directives for MoD service members generally or for any of the armed services individually that describes what kinds of romantic, intimate, or other close relationships are permitted between service members of the same or differing ranks or within the same unit, sub-unit, or chain of command.

I have been unable to find any available publication with said regulations (and I am not sure they exist) so I can't give a more specific information than that."

I am writing to confirm that we are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act).

Your request is exempt under Section 21 of the FOI Act because the information is accessible to you by other means.

The UK Armed Forces Code of Social Conduct is contained in Part 1 of Joint Service Publication 887 (JSP887) entitled 'Diversity Inclusion and Social Conduct'. JSP887 is available at the following link:

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/444949/original/>

JSP887 does not provide a prescriptive list of restrictions on sexual activity; it provides examples of the kinds of conduct or relationship that may constitute social misbehaviour. This includes unwelcome sexual attention; over-familiarity with the spouses or partners of other Service personnel; behaviour which damages or hazards the marriage or personal relationships of Service personnel or civilian colleagues within the wider Defence community; and taking sexual advantage of subordinates.

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, Ground Floor, Zone D, 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 FOI 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,

Defence People Secretariat FOI