



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2017/06080/08/03

E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

24 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request of 26 June through the whatdotheyknow website in which you requested the following information:

I would be grateful to receive copies of all correspondence to or from officials or Ministers in the Ministry of Defence relating to the appointment of Ruth Davidson MSP as an Honorary Colonel for the 32 Signal Regiment.

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information requested is exempt from release under section 21 (Information reasonably accessible by other means) and can be found at this link

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1374/>.

Information not already released is attached. Some of this information is exempt from release under section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act and has been redacted accordingly. This is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

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,

Army Secretariat

[REDACTED]

D/MS1/47/37

31 January 2017

APS2/S of S

Copy to:

COS DS Sec

HONORARY COLONEL 32 SIGNAL REGIMENT ARMY RESERVE

ISSUE

1. Whether to endorse the appointment of the Rt Hon Ruth Davidson MSP as Honorary Colonel of 32 Signal Regiment Army Reserve.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that S of S approves the appointment of the Rt Hon Ruth Davidson.

TIMING

3. Routine.

BACKGROUND

4. Honorary Colonels may be appointed to Army Reserve units on the scale of one for each Colonel's or Lieutenant Colonel's command. Requests for appointment are made by units through the Chain of Command¹. The route is then through the appropriate RFCA, Force Troops Brigade to (in this case) GOC Force Troops Command and then on to MS Hons. The latter then processes the application and gains HM's agreement before promulgation in the London Gazette and MS writing to the new incumbent to notify her.

5. There are precedents for having serving or former MPs/Ministers of State appointed to this type of role with both the Army Reserve and ACF, who include:

- Sir Malcolm Rifkind:
 - Hon Col Edinburgh UOTC (Mar 99 to present).
 - Hon Col 162 MC Regt RLC (V) (Nov 96 to Apr 05).
- Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Pattie - Hon Col 4 Bn RGJ (V) (Jan 96 to Jun 99).
- Hon Nicholas Soames - Hon Col Bristol UOTC (Oct 05 to May 11).
- Rt Hon A B Baldry - Hon Col 711 – 716 Laundry Troops RLC (V) (Oct 96 to Apr 99).
- Mrs D J Taylor - Hon Col Durham ACF (Nov 05 to Nov 10).

¹ See Reserve Land Forces Regulations 2016, paragraphs 01.04.143 – 1.04.146.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- Col (Retd) P J Mercer - Hon Col Nottinghamshire ACF (Sep 07 to May 11).
 - Mr M A Penning – Hon Col 2nd (Northern Ireland) Battalion ACF (Apr 13 to Oct 14)
 - Rt Hon Adam Ingram – Hon Col 154 Regiment RLC (Aug 13 to present)

6.

[REDACTED]

In view of Rt Hon Ruth Davidson's position as a party leader it is proper that SofS's approval is sought prior to appointment.

7. If agreed, the Rt Hon Ruth Davidson would be appointed initially for a tenure of five years from 17 April 2017. I should be grateful to know if SofS is content.

[REDACTED]

B2 MSF
MS Honours
MB [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MB

[REDACTED]