



Ministry  
of Defence



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DE&S Secretariat (LD & SE)

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26 October 2017  
Our Reference: FOI2017/10332

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 18 October 2017 in response to my letter of the same date (FOI2017/09203). You asked:

*... I wonder if you might be able to answer the following questions:*

- 1. As and when the jewellers, Hancocks, require a further supply of metal from Donnington are they authorised to approach the Head of Establishment DE&S direct or must they apply through the chain of command you have described?***
- 2. Is any department within the MoD in London required to authorise the cutting of the Donnington metal?***
- 3. As the metal represents a finite supply, and it appears to be of varying quality, which department in the MoD would be responsible for acquiring a fresh supply?***
- 4. You say that MoD does not hold information on how often, and when, Hancocks have been supplied with metal from Donnington since 1945. However, I have been told that a Stock Record Card does exist, with an entry for 11 May 1953, and that on 23 Oct 1959 an issue of 50 ounces was taken from the metal. If not Hancocks, who was the recipient?***
- 5. There was a report in the press (Shropshire Star 8 Dec 2015) that a further cut was taken in February 1970 and also that in 2006 another cut was taken for use in Canada. Can you confirm who would have received the cut taken in 1970?***

I am treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

The answers to your questions are as follows:

Q1 & Q2

The requirement to cut metal to manufacture a VC is directly linked to the decision to award the medal. When such a decision is made Hancock's, by default, would have the authority to approach Head of Establishment DE&S Donnington.

Q3

This would depend on the sources available; the agreement of Ministers and Senior Military Officers may be required.

Q4

It is not suggested that Hancock's have not been supplied with metal from Donnington since 1945, only that we do not hold information on such transactions.

Q5

The MOD does not hold this information.

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](mailto: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,



DE&S Secretariat