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of Defence

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25 September 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 19 September in which you asked for the following information:

***"I am currently a Masters student at The University of Manchester doing a dissertation entitled, 'To what extent do the United Kingdom and United States' Armies Currently Pursue Gender Equality Policies with Regard to the Deployment of Women in Combat Roles? A Comparative Analysis.'***

*Could I request some current statistics please?*

*I have five questions, they are as follows:*

- 1. How many women are currently in the UK army?*
- 2. What percentage is this compared to men in the UK army?*
- 3. What roles are open to women in the UK army?*
- 4. Are all roles/combat roles now open to women in the UK army? If not, which ones?*
- 5. How does the UK army define the terms 'combat' and 'combat roles'?"*

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

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds this information. In answer to questions one and two, as at 1 August 2017, the total number of females in the UK Regular Army is 7,520 (rounded) which represents 9.1% of the total UK Army, the remaining 90.9% are male. These figures represent both trained and untrained strength.

The answers to questions three, four and five is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Information accessible to the applicant by other means. This is because the information is already in the public domain and can be found contained in the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/women-in-ground-close-combat-roles-review-2016>

The answers to questions three and four can be found in paragraph 23 of the second document in the link. The answer to question five can be found in paragraph ten of the link at the bottom of the page entitled "Women in ground close combat (GCC) review 2014".

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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,



Disclosure and Litigation Leader