



Ministry  
of Defence Police

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[REDACTED]  
By email – [REDACTED]

Our Ref: eCase: FOI2017/05307 RFI: 110/17  
Date: 8 June 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: OPERATION ASHTON**

We refer to your email dated 27 April 2017, which was acknowledged on the 8 May 2017.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

- “1) Please state the exact years in which the sexual abuse that Operation Ashton investigated is alleged to have taken place. Please also state how long Operation Ashton took to complete, and the dates of commencement and completion.
- 2) Please list all current and former cadet detachments investigated as part of Operation Ashton for the alleged or suspected sexual abuse of cadets.
- 3) Please provide a copy of any reports held on the findings of Operation Ashton.
- 4) Please state the number of persons that action was taken against as a result of Operation Ashton. Please break this number down further by the types of action taken in each case (e.g. 2 dismissals, 1 prosecution).
- 5) Please list all persons prosecuted as a result of investigations conducted as part of Operation Ashton. Please state the names of these persons and then please list crimes for which they were prosecuted.”

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that some information within the scope of your request is held.

**1) Please state the exact years in which the sexual abuse that Operation Ashton investigated is alleged to have taken place.**

The sexual abuse allegations investigated under Operation Ashton covered the period from 1975 to 1986.

**Please also state how long Operation Ashton took to complete, and the dates of commencement and completion.**

The Operation Ashton investigation undertaken by the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) commenced in 2001 and was completed in 2004.

**2) Please list all current and former cadet detachments investigated as part of Operation Ashton for the alleged or suspected sexual abuse of cadets.**

Please see Annex A for a list of the Cadet Detachments investigated as part of Operation Ashton.

**3) Please provide a copy of any reports held on the findings of Operation Ashton.**

A comprehensive search of our hard copy archive records has been conducted. This confirmed that there is no final report of the findings of the Operation Ashton investigation contained within the document sets held in our crime file archives.

Investigations of this nature are conducted on the HOLMES system, which negates the requirement for the inclusion of a final findings report that would normally only be internally conducted for briefing purposes when there had been possible investigation/process irregularities, or where an external police force had conducted a review of the investigation.

**4) Please state the number of persons that action was taken against as a result of Operation Ashton. Please break this number down further by the types of action taken in each case (e.g. 2 dismissals, 1 prosecution).**

Three persons were processed through the Scottish judicial system as a result of Operation Ashton, two of whom were prosecuted and one where no further action was decided by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

**5) Please list all persons prosecuted as a result of investigations conducted as part of Operation Ashton. Please state the names of these persons and then please list crimes for which they were prosecuted.**

The persons prosecuted as a result of Operation Ashton and the offences for which they were convicted are as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Offences</b>
Alexander Bissett	Assault Breach of the Peace Lewd, Indecent and Libidinous behaviour
John Speirs	Lewd, Indecent and Libidinous behaviour

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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, London SW1A 2HB (email [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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 Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate the 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

**MDP Sec Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office**

Business Name	Building/House Name	Flat/Room No./Unit	Building/Hou	Street	Town	County	Postcode
ARMY CADET FORCE (ACF)	ARMY CADET HUT				GLASGOW	LANARKSHIRE	
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)					AYR	AYRSHIRE	
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE					GIRVAN	AYRSHIRE	
ARMY CADET ANNUAL CAMP WHITBURN					WHITBURN	SUNDERLAND	
CADET CAMP					ARROCHAR	DUNBARTONSHIRE	
ARMY CADETS ANNUAL CAMP					LIVERPOOL		
ARMY CADETS ANNUAL CAMP					YORK		
ARMY CADET ANNUAL CAMP					INVERNESS		
CADET CAMP					CATTERICK		
CADET COMPOUND SHAWFIELD	CARAVAN				GLASGOW	LANARKSHIRE	
ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS CADETS	TA MARYHILL BARRACKS	152 LOWLAND BRIGADE			GLASGOW	LANARKSHIRE	
ARMY CADETS CAMERONIANS				AIRBLES ROAD	MOTHERWELL		
ARMY CADETS				AITKENHEAD ROAD	GLASGOW		
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				AUCHRANNIE ROAD	ISLE OF ARRAN	AYRSHIRE	KA27 8BZ
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				BARWOOD ROAD	ERSKINE	RENFREWSHIRE	PA8 6AB
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				BINNIE LANE	GOUROCK	RENFREWSHIRE	PA19 1QA
ARMY CADET FORCE (ACF)				BROADCROFT LANE	ISLE OF BUTE	AYRSHIRE	PA20 9BA
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				BROADLOAN	RENFREW	RENFREWSHIRE	PA4 0SA
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				CANAL ROAD	JOHNSTONE	RENFREWSHIRE	PA5 8LA
ARMY CADETS	ARMY CADET BUILDING			COPELAW STREET	GLASGOW		
A TROOP CALEDONIAN CADETS ROYAL ARTILLARY (RA)	ARTILLARY HOUSE TAC			CROW ROAD	GLASGOW	LANARKSHIRE	G11 7DG
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				DALRYMPLE STREET	STRANRAER	WIGTOWNSHIRE	DG9 7EY
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				DEE WALK	KIRKCUDBRIGHT	KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE	DG6 4DR
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				EAST ROAD	IRVINE	AYRSHIRE	KA12 0AA
GLASGOW AND LANARKSHIRE BATTALION (BN) ARMY CADET FORCE (ACF)	HQ TRAINING CENTRE			GILBERTFIELD ROAD	GLASGOW	LANARKSHIRE	G72 8YP
C TROOP CALEDONIAN CADETS ROYAL ARTILLARY (RA)			63	HOULDSWORTH STREET	GLASGOW	LANARKSHIRE	
B TROOP CALEDONIAN CADETS ROYAL ARTILLARY (RA)	ARMY CADET FORCE HUT			INVERCANNY PLACE	GLASGOW	LANARKSHIRE	G15 7BA
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				IRVINE ROAD	KILMARNOCK	AYRSHIRE	
BEARDMORE PLATOON ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS (RHF)	ARMY CADET HUT BEARDMORE 1			KILLIN STREET	GLASGOW	LANARKSHIRE	G43 1DG
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				KILMARNOCK ROAD	SANQUHAR	DUMFRIESHIRE	DG4 6LY
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE				KILMEIN AVENUE	AYR	AYRSHIRE	KA6 7PE
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				NORTH STREET	DALRY	AYRSHIRE	KA24 5DN
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				PAISLEY ROAD	GLASGOW	LANARKSHIRE	G781 ND
D TROOP CALEDONIAN CADETS ROYAL ARTILLARY (RA)	TERRITORIAL ARMY CENTRE		9	POLMADIE AVENUE	GLASGOW	LANARKSHIRE	
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				PORTLAND STREET	TROON	AYRSHIRE	KA10 6QN
WEST LOWLAND BATTALION ARMY CADET FORCE (BN ACF)	FUSILIER HOUSE			SEAFORTH ROAD	AYR	AYRSHIRE	KA8 9HX
	ARMY CADET HALL		5	SHETTLESTON ROAD	GLASGOW		
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				STATION ROAD	CUMNOCK	AYRSHIRE	
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				UNION STREET	SALTCOATS	AYRSHIRE	KA21 5LL
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE				WELL STREET	MAUCHLINE	AYRSHIRE	KA5 5QE
CALEDONIAN CADETS				WEST PRINCESS STREET		LANARKSHIRE	
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				WHITEHAUGH ROAD	PAISLEY	RENFREWSHIRE	
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				WIGTOWN ROAD	NEWTON STEWART	WIGTOWNSHIRE	DG8 6AS
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				WILIAM STREET	PORT GLASGOW	RENFREWSHIRE	
ARMY CADET FORCE CENTRE (ACFC)				WITCHKNOWE ROAD	KILMARNOCK	AYRSHIRE	KA1 4LN