



Ministry
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat (LD & SE)

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Our Reference: FOI2018/01259

Thank you for your email dated 24 January 2018. You asked:

I would like to know whether the MOD, and its catering contractors providers ever served Religious Slaughtered Meat/Poultry or Meat/Poultry slaughtered in a manner that complied with the needs of Religious Slaughter to fulfil either Kosher or Halal standards, to Non-Muslim/Non-Jewish serving members of the Armed Forces on active duty without notification. This includes:

- ***During Falklands War***
- ***During the Iraq War***
- ***During Afghanistan War***
- ***Present day catering for all MOD Serving personnel both in the UK and on Global Operations.***

I would also like to know if purchasing records showed Halal/Kosher Meat/Poultry was requested for food products / provisions that were known to be provided to these Armed Forces Personnel and whether this was based due to the overseas countries Religious culture (during the above conflicts) and whether this currently applies to current operations.

I note from previous FOIs that Halal Meat/Poultry was purchased by the MOD but it does not answer the above questions and therefore would like clarification on these specific points. You state that Purple Food Stuffs provided catering supplies of Meat/Poultry and records below show this to be the case but only during indicated periods. Knowing the amount of food purchased in those documents does this mean Halal/Kosher meats was served to unsuspecting Non-Muslim/Non-Jewish personnel?

Do Purple Food Stuffs continue to provide Meat/Poultry to the MOD today and are there records of their purchasing for periods not listed above?

Have the MOD clearly directed Halal/Kosher Meat/Poultry should not be served to Non-Muslim/Non-Jewish serving personnel at any during those periods and if so what records of those communications exist.

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.

It might be helpful if I first explained that Armed Forces personnel serving on operations, exercises and Her Majesty's Ships and Submarines, are catered for under the new Deployable Food Programme introduced on 1st October 2017.

Ministry of Defence (MOD) personnel in the UK and permanent bases overseas are primarily catered for through a number of Facilities Management contracts.

The MOD does use Halal and Kosher meat in its meals. Information on the volume of meat (Halal, Kosher or otherwise) used and the cost of purchase is not held by the MOD. This is a matter for the contractors.

All food procured for MOD personnel must comply with Defence food quality standards. These standards comply with all UK and EU production standards, Farm Assurance or equivalent. This includes the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which covers Halal slaughter;

MOD policy is in line with current UK legislation and Government guidelines and while there is no requirement for a menu to state that a dish may or may not contain halal or Kosher meat, service and entitled civilian personnel with special dietary requirements are fully informed as to which dishes are suitable for them to eat. Operational Ration Packs (ORP) are produced in several variants: general purpose, vegetarian, Sikh/Hindu, Halal and Kosher. This allows the MOD to cater for a broad range of dietary requirements in an operational theatre or during training exercises.

Information about the serving of meat to fulfil either Kosher or Halal standards during the Falklands War is no longer held by the MOD. Halal ORP was introduced in 1991 during the first Gulf War. The Kosher ORP was introduced in 1998 until 2003 and then reinstated in 2012.

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,


DE&S Secretariat