



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Business Services  
Secretariat Team  
Room 6303  
Tomlinson House  
Norcross  
Thornton-Cleveleys  
Lancashire  
FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2018/03375

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

23 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 11 January 2017 requesting the following information:

*"I would like to submit an FOI for the following information:*

- 1. What are Dr Saunders medical credentials and is he either an ENT, psychologist, psychiatrist, audiologist or neurologist?*
- 2. Is Dr Saunders an MOD employee or externally contracted to the MOD? Who exactly employs him?*
- 3. How many medical advisors are employed by the veterans agency/MOD for the purpose of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I would like to start by apologising for the delay in replying.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that all of the information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found below:

- Dr Saunders medical credentials are as follows:
  - Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)
  - Fellow Royal College General Practitioners
  - Diploma Sports Medicine (DSMSA)
  - Masters in Medical Law (LLM)

In addition, Dr Saunders has 36 years' experience of working as a doctor in the NHS and 31 years as a full time principal in general practice.

Dr Saunders is not a specialist in ENT, audiology, psychology, psychiatry or neurology.

- Dr Saunders is employed by the MOD.



3. Veterans UK; part of Defence Business Services (formally the Veterans Agency), employ nine Medical Advisers for the purpose of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA you may wish to be aware the formal title of a doctor working for Veterans UK is Medical Adviser (MA). All MAs hold unrestricted full registration with the General Medical Council. They also hold various basic and specialist qualifications but the key factor in their recruitment is that they are broadly experienced. Several hold the Diploma of Disability Assessment Medicine but this is a relatively new qualification and is not compulsory for employment with Veterans UK. All MAs are fully trained in all aspects of disability assessment as they relate to War Pension and Armed Forces Compensation legislation.

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,



DBS Secretariat