



Policy Legacy FOI Team
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Reference: FOI: 2018/01695

Date: 26 April 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – FIRE AT PALACE BARRACKS

You asked the following:

"I am sure you are aware that there was quite a sizeable fire at Palace Barracks in Holywood, NI yesterday in the admin building.

I would like to know if any documents were destroyed in the fire, and if so, what they related to – ie personnel files/Army/MI5"

Firstly please accept my apologies for the lateness in responding to your request this was due to circumstances beyond our control. I can confirm that there was a fire at Palace Barracks in Holywood on 1 February 2018. The fire destroyed a building housing both the Regimental Headquarters of the Royal IRISH Regiment and the offices of the Ulster Defence Regiment/Royal IRISH Aftercare Service.

As the building has been deemed unsafe we are unable to enter and cannot confirm if any records were destroyed. However, I can confirm that the documentation held in the building related solely to the organisations based within it.

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

38X Brigade FOI Team