



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Ref: **FOI2017/08145/79395/05/04**

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[REDACTED]

22 September 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 24 August in which you requested the following information:

- 1 - The number of ebola samples (blood or other biological samples) analysed by each of the British Army in each of the countries affected by ebola between 2014 and now (with dates, lab and result)
- 2 - The current location of all the samples analysed by the British Army during that period (in the affected countries as well as UK and abroad)
- 3 - The Standard Operating Procedure (or similar document) that sets out how British Army decides where to send samples for analysis
- 4 - The actions of the British Army relating to the ebola response
- 4 - All the audits and evaluations of the activities of British Army relating to ebola
- 5 - List of security incidents relating to ebola in British Army labs in the affected countries and in the UK
- 6 - The agreements that British Army might have signed with each of the government in the affected countries regarding ebola
- 7 - The template of the consent forms, if any, of the patients whose blood was sampled by the British Army or its partners. And how many patients signed the form

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

The Ministry of Defence requires further information in order to determine whether it holds information within the scope of question 4 (x 2) of your request. In respect to your first question 4 can you confirm if this is related to medical assistance only, and in respect of your second question 4 are you seeking information relating only to medical activities. It may also help if I explain that the Ebola response was not an Army Operation. Once you have clarified your request I will be happy to consider it again.

To provide help and assistance Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I am providing the following information in regard to your other questions:

Questions 1, 2 and 5.

The Army does not hold any information in relation to these questions. There were not any Army Labs, Public Health England (PHE) may be able to assist you further in respect to this area of your request.

Question 3

The Army does not hold any information in relation to this question, samples were sent to the on-site collocated PHE lab. Department For International Development (DFID), Home Office (HO) and Department of Health procedures were followed and it may prove helpful to redirect this question to them

Question 6

The Army does not hold any information in relation into this question, DFID and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were responsible for all agreements with the affected countries and therefore is may prove beneficial to approach them.


Question 7

The Army does not hold any information in relation into this question, there is no requirement for consent forms for blood sampling as consent is implied if you have attended for care and been admitted, it is possible that the Department of Health may be able to offer further information.

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). 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,


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