



# Ministry of Defence

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19 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 22 September, in response to our letter of the same date, in which you requested the following information:

4. The actions of the British Army relating to the ebola response?

4 - A) You've asked "can you confirm if this is related to medical assistance only"

My clarification is: No this is related to all of the action of the British Army related to the ebola response, including medical assistance.

4. All the audits and evaluations of the activities of British Army relating to ebola?

4 - B) You've asked me "are you seeking information relating only to medical activities."

My clarification is: No this is related to all of the action of the British Army related to the ebola response, including medical assistance.

Regarding question 7: Please confirm whether the army asked for the consent of patients before taking their blood samples, whether this was implied in the consent to the medical treatment or not.

And kindly provide me with a copy of template consent forms, if any, and how many patients signed the form.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

Question 4a, On behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) the Army, under the direction of Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ), provided Engineers and Medical staff to deploy to Sierra Leone in order to construct health care facilities and subsequently deliver health care from those facilities. The construction of the health care facilities was undertaken by the Royal Engineers with support from other trades drawn from all three services and in conjunction with the FCO and Host nation personnel. The delivery of health care to infected persons was provided by medical staff of all three Services not just the Army, the day to day Command of the Medical personnel was by 34 Field Hospital under the direction of PJHQ to deliver the mission specific goals as set by the FCO and Foreign Development Secretary.

Question 4b, The Army does not hold the information requested, you may find it helpful to note that, as explained in our previous letter and in more detail above, the Ebola response was not an Army Operation.

Question 7, I refer you to the answer provided in our letter of 22 September.

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](mailto: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,

