



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Our Reference: FOI2018/03206

Email: [REDACTED]

23 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 1 March 2018 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in which you requested the following information:

I'd like to request any studies completed since January 2016 on Social Mobility and the Armed Forces.

For your guidance this work may have been carried out by the Armed Forces Covenant team.

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

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Ministry of Defence.

Section 16 of the FOIA sets out the duty on public authorities to provide advice and assistance, as far as it is reasonable to expect the public authority to do so, to anyone who is considering, or has made, a request for information to it.

For 2018, the Armed Forces are completing the Social Mobility Employer Index (SMEI). The SMEI is a joint initiative between the Social Mobility Foundation and the Social Mobility Commission. The SMEI was introduced in 2017 and nearly 100 employers from across a range of sectors, collectively employing almost a million people, submitted entries. The Government's view being that for too long, diversity in certain sectors and professions has been focused on gender and race/ethnicity alone; as a result many failed to access talent from across the whole of society. The aim of the Index is to collect data from participating organisations about their social mobility work across seven key areas:

- Work with young people
- Routes into the employer
- Attraction
- Recruitment and selection
- Data collection
- Progression and experienced hires
- Internal and external advocacy

In 2018, the three single Services will all be submitting separate entries in to the [Index](#).

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.gov.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,

(Original Signed)
Defence People Secretariat