



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2018/02970

[REDACTED]

Reply to: [REDACTED]

9 April 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 27 February 2018 requesting the following information:

*“Could you tell if the MOD work with charities and who would manage this relationship within MOD. In addition, could you tell me what charities the MOD currently supports or works with.”*

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

I apologise for the time taken in replying to you.

The MOD conducts business with the voluntary and community sector primarily through the Confederation of Service Charities (Cobseo). Cobseo is a membership organisation of some 250 organisations, including 65 Regimental Associations. Their members range from larger charities such as The Royal British Legion, SSAFA, Help for Heroes and Blesma (The Limbless Veterans) to smaller organisations.

This Department has a strong and productive relationship with Cobseo who provide a focus to communicate the concerns of its member organisations, and to consult with MOD, ensuring that the needs of the Armed Forces Community are considered when policies are developed. As well as consulting formally and conducting business via Cobseo, the MOD also liaises with individual ex-Service organisations, Family Federations and armed forces community Help and Information Voluntary Exchanges (HIVEs) on matters of specific interest. Relationships with charities are managed by the relevant policy teams within MOD.

Every effort is made to ensure that all charities, whether they are members of Cobseo or not, are treated equitably and that one organisation is not favoured above the rest.

The MOD does not directly fund charities - any funding that MOD provides would be in the form of a Grant-in-Aid, Grant or through the provision of services by a charity or voluntary organisation under a normal commercial contract (procurement).

Charitable organisations are required to raise their own funds through public and corporate donations and from grant-making trusts. This is in keeping with the long-standing practice that central Government does not ordinarily provide funds, raised through taxation, to assist individual charities' core activities.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act I can advise you that the Directory of Social Change undertook a review of the Armed Forces charities sector and reported in November 2014. This report is available at: <http://armedforcescharities.org.uk/>.

The Directory of Social Change website which may provide you with further information can be found at: <https://www.dsc.org.uk/uk-armed-forces-charities-website/>

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 [CIOFOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIOFOI-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,

Defence People Secretariat FOI