



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building (06/N)  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

Ref: FOI2017/07153

Telephone: 020 7218 9000

[REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

26 July 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 17 July 2017 in which you requested the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, Wagtail UK Ltd are writing to make a freedom of information request from ELCAS on all of the information held with reference to [REDACTED] application Wagtail UK Ltd 6931, we will require electronic copies of this information addressed to [REDACTED] email: [REDACTED]

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

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds this information. The information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. A link to the Learning Provider (LP) access area on the ELCAS website can be found here: <http://www.enhancedlearningcredits.com/learning-provider/logon-provider>. No additional information is held by ELCAS above that uploaded onto the LP application portal.

The written statement included on the ELCAS LP portal states: 'Wagtail Uk Ltd is an approved centre for Highfield Awarding Body of Compliance (HABC), (Centre number 13900), Some of the courses we deliver are NASDU vocational qualifications for dog handling at Levels 3 & 4 and are endorsed by the UK awarding organisation "Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance" (HABC), who are recognised and regulated by OFQUAL. HABC are also a recognised Awarding Body with the "Security Industry Authority" (SIA) for the certification of licence to practice qualifications within the UK.' However, the two courses submitted for the MOD to review, which are detailed below, do not appear on the Regulated Qualification Framework. Recognition and inclusion on the RQF is a prerequisite for approval of courses unless approval has been granted for some sector specific courses such as those covered by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

- Level 3 Certificate in Professional Working Dog Handling – Explosive Detection at a cost of £3,995.00.
- Level 3 Certificate in Professional Working Dog Handling – Drug Detection Dogs at a cost of £3,515.50.

If Wagtail UK Ltd are able to provide a link to the RQF to confirm these courses are included on the RQF list their application may be reviewed. Here is a link to some of the Dog Handling courses included on the RQF:

<https://register.ofqual.gov.uk/Search?category=Qualifications&query=Open%20College%20Network%20Level%203%20Certificate%20in%20Professional%20Working%20Dog%20Handling%20%20Drug%20Detection%20Dogs&sort=None&filters%5B0%5D=level%2BLevel%203&filters%5B1%5D=ssa%2BAnimal%20care%20and%20veterinary%20science&page=1>.

Under Section.16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA you may wish to be advised we are currently conducting a business process review of the ELCAS course approval process which will include some of the Dog Handling Courses. As part of that review, we may consider an alternative industry standard awarding organisation; i.e. the National Association of Security Dog Users (NASDU) that will justify course approval as an alternative to the RQF.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance Team, Ground Floor, Zone D, 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat