



Ministry
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2017/05935

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

21 June 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 June 2017 in which you requested the following information:

“I request information on military protocol specifically regarding the 'salute.' I ask three questions.

- (i) Who, other than fellow armed forces personnel and the Royal Family, are active service personnel required to salute?
- (ii) Is this practice formalised in any guidance?
- (iii) Is it incorrect for the armed forces personnel to salute members of Her Majesty's Government?”

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

I will address each of your points in turn.

i) Who, other than fellow armed forces personnel and the Royal Family, are active service personnel required to salute?

Saluting is a form of paying a compliment and apart from the requirement to salute the individuals and the occasions mentioned in Queens Regulations and Ceremonial publications for the single Services, it is rarely wrong for an individual to salute another individual. In a number of establishments it is customary for officers to salute brother officer's wives.

(ii) Is this practice formalised in any guidance?

Guidance for the single Services is contained within Queen's Regulations' and Ceremonial publications and repeated in drill manuals.

(iii) Is it incorrect for the armed forces personnel to salute members of Her Majesty's Government?

In short it is rarely wrong for anyone to pay a compliment to another and while there is no stated requirement to salute a member of Her Majesty's Government, it is customary to do so in appropriate circumstances.

Under section 16 of the FOIA (advice and assistance) further information regarding saluting can be found at the following link:

<https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/how-to-saluteourforces-like-the-british-military/>

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). 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