



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: ArmySec10/03/
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E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk

Website: www.army.mod.uk

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26 September 2018

Dear XXXXXXXX,

Thank you for your email of 29 August in which you requested the following information:

*Would it be possible for a clear understanding of what the MPGS MLSE means.
My understanding from the website is you can serve at a location of your choice. You can be posted for up to 30 days per year within 30 miles of your selected location.*

Is it right to bring this to the attention of your unit if the MPGS are going outside of their terms of service as laid down in the MLSE engagement?

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 information in scope of your request is held. Some of the information you have requested can be found below.

Extract from AGAI 43 Part 9, para 43.918:

43.918. Military Local Service Engagement (MLSE). MPGS personnel serve on a MLSE as full time Regular Army personnel. The specific MLSE ToS are as follows:

- a. Length of Engagement. The MLSE provides for an initial term of 3 years' service from the date of enlistment. Subject to approval, subsequent 3 year engagements may be granted thereafter ...*
- b. Area of Service. MPGS personnel are restricted to serving in a particular area of the United Kingdom as determined by the individual before enlistment.*

(1) The individual is to notify their Recruiting Officer in writing on an AFB 271 – Area of Service Certificate of their desired base location, and are to be employed within 30 miles of that location.

(2) Unless doing so as a volunteer, an individual may only serve outside their Area of Service for a maximum of 30 days in any calendar year, or part of a year, in which the individual is serving.

(3) An individual may not be assigned, whether temporarily or permanently, or operate in either the armed or unarmed guarding role outside of the UK. They may volunteer to participate in overseas sports tours, adventure training and shooting team tours.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held. However, in order to be helpful in accordance with Section 16 of the Act, I have endeavoured to provide information which I believe is relevant to your question '*Is it right to bring this to the attention of your unit if the MPGS are going outside of their terms of service as laid down in the MLSE engagement?*'

As stated at the following weblink:

Serving or former members of the UK armed forces can make a complaint if they feel they have been wronged on a matter that arises when they are subject to service law.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/armed-forces-service-complaints-process>

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). 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,

Army Secretariat