



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2018/12244

[REDACTED]

Email to: [REDACTED]

4 October 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 2 October 2018 containing the question below:

“why doesnt the MOD inform recruits that as a result of service they may suffer from mental health related issues?”

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

The MOD does not hold information in scope of your request. FOIA covers any recorded information that is held by a public authority in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and by UK-wide public authorities based in Scotland. Your request is not a request for recorded information.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise you that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which is aligned with the NHS delivery plan and the Government’s focus on mental health. This has a vision for *“all Defence People to enjoy a state of positive physical and mental health and wellbeing, feeling, feeling connected with, and supported by, the military and wider community, enabling them to contribute to the delivery of Defence outputs, including operational capability, as part of the Whole Force.”*

The Defence People Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-22 adopts a multi-disciplinary “through-life approach” (Join well, Train well, Work well, Live well, Leave well) to mental health and wellbeing, using a structured approach of promotion, prevention, detection and treatment. The strategy seeks to provide Serving personnel with the means, tools and training to manage their own mental health and wellbeing and to support the psychological wellbeing of their colleagues. If mental health difficulties persist despite informal support, Serving personnel are encouraged to seek help from a variety of welfare, medical and specialist mental health support sources.

A copy of the Defence People Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2022 is available at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-people-ental-health-and-wellbeing-strategy>.

The single Services have developed their own Service-specific policies for stress management and resilience-building, along with procedures for managing vulnerable individuals. These policies reflect the organisation and operating environment of each Service and cover individual vulnerability management. These policies provide guidance and direction at a local unit level in reducing and managing risk. This is a collaborative process that includes multi-disciplinary agencies, the Chain of Command, welfare, healthcare and pastoral personnel.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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 normally 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