



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building (Ground Floor, Zone D)
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

E-mail: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: FOI2019/05370

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
8 May 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 7 May 2019 clarifying your previous request under reference FOI/2019/04295 which asked for the following:

I am writing to you to request the current number of staff within your department employed as press officers and based within the UK. Please also detail the number of staff in these roles at the end of 2017/18 and 2016/17.

Your final figure should consider any members of staff whose main duty is press relations, public relations, communications and social media.

Your response should include both full-time and part-time members of staff, as well as any on any irregular contracts such as consultants. Preferably this portion of the response should be broken down to reflect these distinctions if possible.

You have clarified that you would like the statistics for the current number of press officers based in the UK employed by the Directorate of Defence Communications (DDC). You have also asked for the comparable statistics for the end of 2017/18 and 2017/16.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The information requested is shown below, the figures represent the total number of staff within scope of your request who were in post as of 31 March in each year requested:

31 March 2019	31
31 March 2018	29
31 March 2017	32

These posts are all full-time positions and there are no irregular contracts such as consultants.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), we have included only those DDC civil servants in posts whose main duty is press relations, public relations, external communications and social media. It does not include any staff whose main duty is internal communications and any support roles as these fall outside of the scope of your request.

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, 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 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,

Directorate of Defence Communications Secretariat