



Ministry
of Defence

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30 January 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 2 January requesting the following information:

"I would like the MOD guidance given to recruiters and commanders on how to identify far-right extremist soldiers, who are sometimes known by the acronym XRW (Extreme right-wing)."

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. As it is reasonably accessible to you by other means it is exempt under Section 21 of the Act. It has been published under the FOI Act and can be found at this link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-released-by-mod-week-commencing-27-january-2020>

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I can advise you that the MOD provides guidance on how to identify *extremist* individuals, not only far-right extremists. The Joint Service Publication (JSP) 345, Applying Prevent within Defence, states that the Government defines extremism as 'vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs'. Radicalisation is defined 'as the process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases to then participate in terrorist groups. There is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame.'

It is in this context that Army Command Standing Order (ACSO) 2905, Army Prevent Policy, provides guidance to the Chain of Command (CoC) that Service Personnel (SP) could be drawn into the process of radicalisation in a number of ways, i.e. their circumstances, experiences or state of mind and this can lead towards a terrorist ideology. Some examples of vulnerabilities to be aware of are:

- Evidence of poverty, disadvantage or social exclusion.
- Recent political or religious conversion.
- Change in appearance or behaviour as a result of new influences.

- Identity confusion.
- Victim or witness to race or religious hate crime.
- Pressure from peers associated with extremism.
- Rejected by peer, faith or social group or family .
- Conflict with family over religious beliefs/lifestyle choices/extreme political views.
- Unxxderachievement.
- An event or series of traumatic events, personal, global or national.
- Non-violent extremism.

The Home Office Prevent e-learning can be found at the following link:

<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>

This training is owned by the Home Office and delivered under franchise by MOD or workshops available to all personnel and disciplines.

Prevent is briefed to the key unit command posts and all SP via the following courses:

- Commanding Officers Designate Course.
- Officers Commanding Discipline Administration Course.
- Late Entry Officers Course.
- All Arms Adjutants Course.
- Regimental Sgt Majors Course.
- Senior Staff Assistants Course.
- MATT 6 Training for all Army SP from the 01 Apr 19.
- Basic Training – All new SP are briefed during their basic training.

More information on Prevent can be found on the Government's counter-terrorism website at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

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

SO2 Personnel
Army Secretariat