



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: Army/Sec/21/02/FOI2019/12209

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19 November 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 23 October in which you requested the following:

I refer to Army/Sec/21/04/FOI2017/02130/78471 and FOI2019/06365

They mention that Cyprus as 1 formation under 1st Division a current 2* formation, despite this not mentioned during the Field Army restructuring in September/October 2019. This is especially for the battalions that rotate between the UK and Cyprus.*

1) Will the infantry units in British Forces Cyprus fall under command of 1st UK Division in the future?

2) Will British Forces Cyprus be reduced from a 2 command to a 1* command?*

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

For part one of your request, it might be helpful to explain that there are two infantry battalions resident in Cyprus at any time. These are drawn on a rotation from 1st (UK) Division. While resident in Cyprus, these two battalions come under the operational command of Commander British Forces; they revert to 1st (UK) Division when they leave Cyprus. British Forces Cyprus is a two-star command within the MOD's Joint Forces Command and does not fall under the Army. The purpose of the table in FOI2019/06365 was to show the transfer of the relevant infantry battalions between Cyprus and the Army. We apologise if this caused confusion.

For part two of your request, there are no plans to reduce British Forces Cyprus to a one-star command.

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 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