



**Defence Business Services** Head DBS  
Secretariat  
Oak West Level 1  
MOD Abbey Wood North  
Bristol BS34 8QW

[DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk)

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Ref: FOI2020/05793

17 June 2020

Mr

Dear Mr

Thank you for your e-mail of 14 May 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about your recruitment complaint.

You requested the following information:

*"I have sent in a complaint about breaches of the recruitment principles for this role and others. I appreciate reading some of the press coverage about how the MOD treats Blacks and Asians, the MOD press office probably wants to discourage people from ethnic minorities from applying because that is how it seems to treat people. Somebody is supposed to investigate and respond to my concerns about this and the other roles, and also investigate my treatment by the press office over the last three months. So was that your final response, and please under the FOI can I have the outcome of the investigation?"*

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

A search of the information has been completed and I can confirm that no information within the scope of your request is held.

Section 1 of the FOIA 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. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds no recorded information that would provide an answer to the question you have asked in your request.

You may find it useful to know that The Information Commissioners Office publishes guidance on how to make requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act at the attached link which you may find helpful in any follow up requests for information:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information>

Under Section 16 (Advice and Guidance) it may be helpful if I explain that there is no record of any formal complaint being made in relation to this particular recruitment campaign. Should you, therefore, wish to raise a matter regarding this recruitment campaign, or on the wider issue of Diversity and Inclusion within the MOD, you should write to or email the MOD at the address

provided below. Your email/letter will then be passed to the relevant area within the MOD for a response.

MOD Ministerial Correspondence Unit  
5th Floor, Zone A  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom  
Email: [parlibranch-treat-official@mod.gov.uk](mailto:parlibranch-treat-official@mod.gov.uk)

For further information on MOD complaints procedure, you may find the below information helpful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/complaints-procedure>

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](mailto: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

Defence Business Services Secretariat