



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

Head DBS Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2019/12206

November 2019

Dear ,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October 2019 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“SGT S A E King, Royal Air Force, Service number: 341648. I would like to ascertain this serviceman’s complete medal entitlement for his RAF service and confirm that any entitlement was applied for and subsequently issued”

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 MOD, and I can neither confirm nor deny that the MOD holds this information. This is because the information you have requested is exempt under section 40 (personal information) of the FOIA as it constitutes third party data.

Section 40(5) provides that personal data about third parties is exempt if one of the conditions set out in section 40(5) is satisfied. Under the FOIA disclosure of this information would breach the first principle as governed by Data Protection Legislation. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in deciding to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that should an individual wish to request the medals entitlement of a deceased service person they would need to provide either a copy of the death certificate, or consent of the next of kin. Where the requestor has a general research interest, access to data will be limited unless it can be confirmed that the service person died more than 25 years ago. Requests can be made in writing to the following address:

Ministry of Defence Medal Office
Imjin Barracks,
Gloucester
GL3 1HW

Or via email to

DBS-Medals@mod.gov.uk

More information on requesting the service records of deceased service personnel can be found on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/request-records-of-deceased-service-personnel>

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

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)