



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

Head DBS Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2019/13436

06 January 2020

Mr [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 November 2019 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“This is an information request relating to social events.

Please itemise the information for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19:

- *How much time off have staff been given to attend social events?*

Time off includes an estimate of how many hours were expended each year, or an estimate of the monetary value of time off (ie. gross salary).

If Section 12 limitations arise, please fulfil the request for London-based staff only “

Your additional email of 9 December 2019 clarified:

“this request is referring to civilian staff based at the Ministry of Defence's Whitehall offices. By social event I am alluding to a gathering where the purpose is to bring people together in a group to socialise.”

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 and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held. Social events are not included in any policy relating to annual or special leave provisions as MOD staff are expected to attend social events in their own time. This information is not recorded on Human Resources Systems and as such, there is no information to extract in the scope of your request.

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)