



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

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Ref: FOI2020/ 07962

11 August 2020

Mr [REDACTED]

Dear Mr [REDACTED] Thank you for your email of 9 July 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“What are Dr Tidman’s medical credentials?”

Is he a consultant level psychiatrist?

Is he a consultant level psychologist?

Is he a consultant at any level within the mental health profession?

• *Is he a consultant in any field of medicine?”*

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Thank you as well for your second email of 11 July asking the additional question:

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‘How does the AFCS define substantial recovery?’

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 confirm some of the information in scope of your request is held. However, some of the information you have requested on Dr Tidman’s medical credentials falls entirely within the scope of an absolute exemption under Section 21 of the FOIA as it is reasonably accessible by other means. As Section 21 is an absolute exemption, there is no requirement to consider the public interest in making the decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may be interested to know that doctors’ medical qualifications are listed on the General Medical Council’s website: <https://www.gmc-uk.org/>. The Medical Register contains details such as registration status, training and other useful information.

In answer to your additional question, regarding the definition of substantial recovery by the AFCS. There is no recorded information held in the scope of your request as there is no legal definition of substantial recovery within the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) Order 2011.

However, under Section 16 (Advice & Assistance) it may be helpful if I explain that under the AFCS Order 2011 it is accepted that once an individual suffers an injury, they are highly unlikely to ever be '100%' fit again. Therefore, descriptors are worded to reflect a substantial recovery rather than 'full' recovery. It is, naturally, wholly subjective. A claimant may feel they have not substantially recovered when actually what they are experiencing are the normal expected effects of an injury or illness following appropriate clinical management of adequate duration. This does not mean they have permanent significant functional limitation or restriction.

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)