

Ref: FOI2020/10630

16 October 2020

Dear

Thank you for your email of 19 September 2020 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*“Please provide the following information:- In respect of--
Mr B Newman Veterans UK--
1. His Civil Service grade
2. His position within Veterans UK”*

A search has now been completed within the MOD for the information requested. I should explain that as your request relates to personal data, and in order not to breach Data Protection principles, the Department, under section 40(5B)(a)(i) of the FOI Act, is unable to confirm or deny whether any information is held within the scope of your request. This is because if held, this information would be exempt under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act in line with Data Protection Legislation. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test. This should not be taken as conclusive evidence that any information in scope of your request does or does not exist.

We have an obligation under section 16 of the FOI Act to offer as much advice and assistance as is reasonably practicable and to suggest ways in which you can refine your request. However, due to the fact you are requesting personal information about a third party, which is exempt under Data Protection Legislation, I am unable to suggest ways in which you can refine 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