



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2021/02580

Ref: FOI2021/02402

20 April 2021

Dear xxx

Thank you for your email of 6 March 2021 requesting the following information:

- “1. Did you make any application in 2019 or 2020 to be a “Stonewall Diversity Champion” or to be included on Stonewall’s “Workplace Equality Index”? If possible please include attachments or appendices to those applications. Please redact personal details if necessary. But if this will take too long, then just “yes” or “no” for 2019 and 2020 would suffice, please.*
- 2. Did you receive any feedback in 2019 or 2020 from Stonewall in relation to either application or programme? Again a “yes” or “no” answer for both years, please.*
- 3. Have you had any other communication from Stonewall in 2019 or 2020 unless privileged or otherwise exempt from disclosure (but if you claim privilege or exemption in relation to any material, please say in broad terms what the material is and the basis on which you claim to be entitled to withhold it). Again a “yes” or “no” for 2019 and 2020, please.*
- 4. Did you carry out any equality impact assessment in connection with any of these applications? Please include any equality impact assessment carried out prior to an earlier application of the same kind, if no further assessment was done. Again a “yes” or “no” answer and for which years (2019 and/or 2020)?*
- 5. How much money in total did you pay to Stonewall (i) in 2019; (ii) in 2020, whether or not as payment for goods or services?*
- 6. Do you intend to continue your membership of either of the two Stonewall schemes in the future, and if so which one(s)?”*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The following response addresses two FOIs, 2021-02580

and 2021-02402 that you have sent to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the same topic. A search for the information requested has now been completed within the MOD.

I have determined that there is no recorded information held (i.e. a policy document) which could answer your questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. An answer to your question 5 is provided in Annex A to this document.

Under section 16 of the Act (advice and assistance), it should be noted that when raising requests for information, you should try to avoid framing them as a question or a series of questions, particularly where the response to these questions appears to be seeking a 'yes' or 'no' answer.

You may find it helpful to consult the Information Commissioner's website which provides very helpful guidance to help you construct any future requests for information under the Act: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>. It would greatly assist the MOD in processing your requests for recorded information under the Act if you follow the advice in the ICO's guidance. By raising requests in the form of questions you make it more difficult for MOD staff to handle them appropriately under the Act.

You may also be interested to note that the MOD expects to continue its membership with Stonewall in the next Financial Year.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance at the address above. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint 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. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat

Annex A

No.	Question	Royal Navy	Army	Royal Air Force	Ministry of Defence Corporate
5	How much money in total did you pay to Stonewall (i) in 2019; (ii) in 2020, whether or not as payment for goods or services.	£3000 + VAT per year.	FY 19/20: £5130. FY 20/21: £5770.	2019/2020 - £ 4,188 and 2020/2021 - £ 3,000.	In the financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20 the MOD spent a combined total of £16,821.60 for services provided by Stonewall.