



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: T/B/Army/PolSec/FOI2021/09648

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28 September 2021

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 31 August 2021 in which you requested the following information:

I wish to gain an understanding of the protocol and regulations in the use of CS GAS. On military personnel. In both, in house training and in field exercises.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is held and is below.

The rules relating to training with CS gas are found in Joint Service Publication (JSP) 925 – Counter CBRN Training Manual, which covers the rules and regulations to plan and execute Counter CBRN training with CS gas for all three Services. Direction on CBRN Training is also included within the ‘Defence Training and Education Leaflets’.

Further to the tri-Service policy, there is also a Royal Airforce (RAF) policy as laid down in Air Publication 1269A (AP1269A), Leaflet 3-04 Annex C: Industrial Hazards – Exposure to CS Gas. This leaflet covers the medical concerns over CS gas exposure and mandates the appropriate medical assessment prior to attending the Defence NBC school.

Under S16 (advice & assistance), you may wish to know that the MOD does not have training aides to release CS gas on collective training exercises, but regulations do allow for its use as long as appropriate safety measures are in place. These include downwind templates and risk assessments for the area in question. Historically its use would have been, as with the confidence test facility, for a group of people to gain confidence that their equipment was working following a simulated attack. Instructors should not release the CS if they see that personnel are unmasked or in distress. We now have a simulation system that allows us to cause equipment to alarm without the release of any simulants.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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.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,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

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