



Ministry of Defence

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Ref. FOI2021/00539

Email: [REDACTED]

18 February 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 18 January 2021, in which you request the following:

As from this successful FOI you can see that there is a precedent for knowing how many Twitter accounts have been blocked under FOI:

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whatdotheyknow.com%2Frequest%2F543493%2Fresponse%2F1313451%2Fattach%2Fhtml%2F3%2Fattachment.docx.html&data=04%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7C819da8a5d3a24c65f47b08d8bb411487%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C637465235478572884%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=ZRW%2Bjx8mPpT%2FXux6Zb0w6tUkbs1tLRWweniH%2B1Ux%2F%2Fq%3D&reserved=0>

To this end, I would like to know how many Twitter accounts have been blocked by:

1.
<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FDefenceHQ&data=04%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7C819da8a5d3a24c65f47b08d8bb411487%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C637465235478572884%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=CPDpE5Cqo8wL7D7wKfPorQgyXYPgnwoNtPGiPeA%2FVIk%3D&reserved=0>
2.
<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FBritishArmy&data=04%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7C819da8a5d3a24c65f47b08d8bb411487%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C637465235478572884%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=1E4xZO1D%2B9MPPAY8OB%2Bozz%2FvEs5hpA6splYAU%2FXvC4s%3D&reserved=0>
3.
<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FRoyalAirForce&data=04%7C01%7Ccio->

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FRoyalNavy&mp:data=04%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7C819da8a5d3a24c65f47b08d8bb411487%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C637465235478572884%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&:sdata=Cc%2FdCnFrYPpGnQXyz0PhWnTmLnrobGkLgfb6ZB0n%2Fqs%3D&:reserved=0>

4.

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FRoyalNavy&mp:data=04%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7C819da8a5d3a24c65f47b08d8bb411487%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C637465235478572884%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&:sdata=0GtmpU12xXGk0lw%2FqPsK2FGKyGJn%2FuZRIFc4eH4CFrq%3D&:reserved=0>

5. In addition, I would like to know how many Twitter accounts have been blocked by the accounts of the Secretary of State for Defence, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence People and Veterans, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, the Minister of State for Defence and the Minister of State for Defence Procurement. These accounts might be considered 'private' as they are run by individuals, but as Ministers they use them to announce official policies and, as such, I believe it is in the public interest to know how many people are unable to read their Tweets because they have been blocked.

Further to your follow up e-mail of 12 February regarding Twitter accounts blocked specifically by the Minister for Defence People and Veterans please take this as a follow up response to your original request clarifying the information originally provided to you.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search has been conducted and I can confirm we do hold some information within the scope of your request. The information requested can be found in the table below.

Twitter Account	Number of Blocked Twitter Accounts
Defence HQ	9
Army	55
Navy	38
RAF	22

The accounts were blocked as they breached our moderation policy as outlined in the MOD's Social Media Use guidance, located here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/social-media-use>

The information requested for the Secretary of State for Defence, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence People and Veterans, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, the Minister of State for Defence and the Minister of State for Defence Procurement is not held by the MOD as these are personal accounts to which the Department does not have access.

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,
DDC – Secretariat Parliamentary