



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Email: DDC-
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Ref. FOI2021/02413

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

17 March 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 2 March 2021 clarifying your FOI request for which you have requested the following:

"I can confirm that I missed out the word 'by' and that it should read: 'How many requests for contact with the media or communication in public were made to DDC by service personnel below 1?' In order to avoid any confusion, I have updated the FOIA request and attached a copy of it to this email.*

In our original request, dated 10 February 2021, we asked to know the number of requests for contact with the media or communication in public made to the DDC by service personnel below 1 over the last 5 years. You advised us in your response, dated 24 February 2021, that you only held records for the last 365 days and that it would not be proportionate to process the information over the last year. Therefore, in our most recent request, dated 24 February 2021 and re-sent today, we have narrowed it down to ask for the number of requests made in the last 6 months.*

As requested in our letter, if it is still not proportionate to provide the number of requests for the last 6 months, please will you provide us with the number of requests made for whatever period is available at a proportionate cost??

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 the MOD does hold information within the scope of your request.

You have specifically asked in your letter attached to your email dated 2 March for the number of requests for contact with the media or communicating in public that were made to DDC by service personnel below 1* and their civilian equivalents. How many of these requests were approved and how many were refused.

For the period 1 September 2020 to 1 March 2021 DDC received six requests from below 1* in rank officials all of which were approved.

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