



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

Secretariat Team
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton Cleveleys
Lancashire
FY5 3WP

REF: FOI2020/13031

E-mail: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

24 December 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 26 November 2020 requesting the following information:

"I would like to know what evidence Mr Mercer has - regarding my son's Death Benefit case - that was not included in the file to the Pensions Ombudsman. If I cannot have the specific papers I would be happy with the nature of that evidence.

Personally I do not think any further evidence exists as it would have been in the file, given to the Pensions Ombudsman, or referred to in the letter [REDACTED] [REDACTED] sent to the Pensions Ombudsman dated 26th November 2010.

- 1. This is a simple request; if there is further evidence why wasn't it included, in the file, to the Pensions Ombudsman?*
- 2. When the Pensions Ombudsman asked for all the evidence used to determine Ms Chalklin's claim why wasn't this further evidence, that Mr Mercer says I am not aware of, sent to the Pensions Ombudsman?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds no recorded information that would provide an answer to the question you have asked in your request.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held.

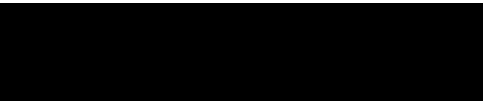
You may find it useful to know that The Information Commissioners Office publishes guidance on how to make requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act at the attached link which you may find helpful in any follow up requests for information”

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,

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

Defence Business Services Secretariat