



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence

Defence Business Services Secretariat
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FY5 3WP

Ref: FOI2021/00307

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

4 February 2021

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 11 January 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

"2. Please provide the following information under the FOIA 2000;

a. Any correspondence that will indicate that 'Dummy NI Numbers were issued to Gurkha officers or soldiers prior to 31 December 2007 and the purpose of these Dummy NI Numbers ?

b. Any correspondence that will indicate who issued 'Dummy NI Numbers to Gurkha officers or soldiers prior to 31 December 2007 and on what authority?

c. Any correspondence that will indicate whether the 'Dummy NI Numbers that were issued to Gurkha officers or soldiers prior to 31 December 2007 were officially provided by the Inland Revenue or HMRC OR were they random numbers selected by the MOD. If they were selected by the MOD, which branch issued the numbers and on what authority?"

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

It may be helpful if I explain that around 1995 Gurkha pay slips were annotated with a 'dummy' National Insurance Number by the MOD for administrative purposes. This happened prior to Defence Business Services taking over responsibility for administering pay and may have been a decision taken by the Armed Forces Pay Administration Agency. Unfortunately, we have been unable to find any recorded information relating to this.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Guidance) you may wish to be aware that the following links do provide some information regarding the Government's response to the Gurkha welfare

report into historic grievances, including a section mentioning dummy National Insurance Numbers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-an-inquiry-into-gurkha-welfare#:~:text=In%20October%202014%20the%20All,Gurkha%20veteran%20in%20the%20UK.>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399559/20150128-APPG_Report_Response_FINAL.PDF

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,

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)