



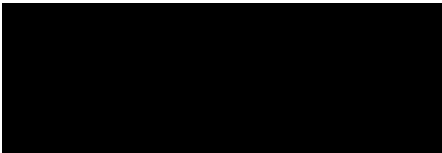
Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence

Defence Business Services Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2021/02275

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk



23 March 2021

Dear 

Thank you for

your email of 27 February 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting
the following information: _____

*“Do the salaried MA receive financial incentives in addition to their salary which is impacted on each case they handle and the outcome of each case? **(Question 1)***

*Also, do the MA as members of the General Medical Council (GMC) still have to conform to the GMC code of conduct mainly the seven principles first identified by the Nolan Committee its first report on standards in public life in May 1995 (the Nolan principles)? **(Question 2)***

*And if this is the case would an individual that has had their case and medical information scrutinised by the MA employed by the MOD but feels the MA has acted in a way that goes against that GMC code of conduct be within their right to submit a complaint to the GMC regarding one of their members a MA working for the MOD/Veterans UK? **(Question 3)***”

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

Section 1 of the FOIA 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. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds no recorded information that would provide an answer to the questions you have asked in your request. 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.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information>

However, under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) I can confirm that Veterans UK Medical Advisers (MA) do not receive any financial incentives related to the cases they deal with in addition to their salary.

Veterans UK Medical Advisers are not members of the GMC. GMC are the regulatory body responsible for medical professional standards. Professional standards are judged in relation to the overall scope of the doctor's work against standards set out in the GMC booklet, 'Good Medical Practice'. Here the emphasis is on safe practice. To be employed as a Defence Business Services, Veterans UK Medical Adviser on either no fault compensation or military ill-health retirement benefits, Medical Advisers are required to be registered and licensed by the GMC. To be licensed they have to undergo formative appraisal by a trained and appointed GMC appraiser every year. The GMC website accessible online sets out the expected standards in the booklet 'Good Medical Practice' with focus on safety for patient and practitioners. In the context of DBS work a key issue is not a different outcome from that which the claimant hoped for, but evidence that the Medical Advisers' advice or certificate was reasonable, based on the case specific evidence, and the relevant standard and burden of proof.

Lastly, you may wish to be aware that it is open to members of the public to complain to the GMC. This process is set out on the GMC website, a link to the site is provided below:

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/>

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,