



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 June 2021 requesting the following information:

Dear British Army, Please can you provide answers for the following questions that relate to the defence smoke free policy?

- 1) *How many Army bases are currently "smoke free"?*
- 2) *When do the Army plan to become smoke free across the entire estate?*
- 3) *In comparison to other TLBs the Army seem to behind in implementing the policy- Why is this?*
- 4) *Will the Army be seeking exemptions to the defence smoke free policy and why?*
- 5) *What will be the smoking policy for those that are on the front line or operations?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). 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. Following a search of our recorded information I have established that some of the information you have requested is held by the MOD and has been used to answer your request.

- 1) *How many Army bases are currently "smoke free"?*

Two pilot sites: Army Foundation College Harrogate and 3 Royal School of Military Engineering

- 2) *When do the Army plan to become smoke free across the entire estate?*

The Army's implementation plan sees transition to a tobacco-free working environment over three phases from October 2021 to March 2022 (dates currently remain provisional).

- 3) *In comparison to other TLBs the Army seem to behind in implementing the policy- Why is this?*

The Secretary of State has directed that Defence will become smoke-free by the end of 2022. Against this directed date, timelines are the responsibility of the individual TLB or Enabling Organisation.

- 4) *Will the Army be seeking exemptions to the defence smoke free policy and why?*

Not held: Recognising that not all sites will be the same, there remains an option (within the policy) for the Head of Establishment to apply for a temporary dispensation which will be reviewed periodically. Full details on dispensation and the Army application process are not yet finalised.

5)What will be the smoking policy for those that are on the front line or operations?

Not held: The Defence Smoke-Free Working Environment policy does not apply to Defence owned or operated sites overseas. These sites may be considered after 2022.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) where information was not held in answer to parts four and five of your request, contextual information has been provided.

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,

Army Policy & Secretariat