



**Defence Business Services**  
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Ref: FOI2021/06781

15 July 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 25 June 2021 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

*"I would be grateful if you could inform me in the medal entitlement and battalion of the following soldier*

*S/13891 James Johnston Blues, Royal Highlanders*

*Also served with the Rifle Brigade and labour corps.*

*He also reentered services during WW2."*

A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD. I should explain that as your request relates to personal data, and in order not to breach Data Protection principles, the Department, under section 40(5B)(a)(i) of the FOI Act, is unable to confirm or deny whether any information is held within the scope of your request. This is because if held, this information would be exempt under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act in line with Data Protection Legislation. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test. This should not be taken as conclusive evidence that any information in scope of your request does or does not exist.

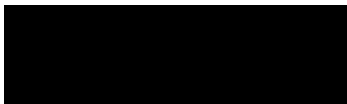
We have an obligation under section 16 of the FOI Act to offer as much advice and assistance as is reasonably practicable and to suggest ways in which you can refine your request. Under the MOD publication scheme, we require a death certificate and/or permission from the next of kin unless the medal earner's date of birth is over 116 years ago, of which we would still require proof.

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](mailto: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



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