



Defence Business Services

██████████
DBS Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2022/01579

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

24 February 2022

██████████
████████████████████
Dear ██████████

Thank you for your email of 5 February 2022 requesting:

"I would like to know;

- 1. What guidance documents or handbooks are Veterans UK Medical Advisors given by the Defence Business Secretariat to assist them with making judgements on medical evidence when providing advice to the Veterans UK caseworkers.*
- 2. What medical qualifications ██████████ Veterans UK medical advisor has and what their GMC number is?"*

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 MOD and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

In respect of request one: Veterans UK Medical Advisers are provided with Synopses of Causation and Medical Appendices covering a range of injuries and disorders, often seen in Service personnel and veterans, to support decision making. Reports from the Independent Medical Expert Group (IMEG) are used as a resource to inform medical decisions.

The IMEG advises the Minister for Defence Person and Veterans on medical and scientific aspects of Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and related matters. The IMEG provides evidence comprising independent, published, peer-reviewed scientific and medical literature.

The recorded information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of an absolute exemption under Section 21 of the FOIA as it is reasonably accessible by other means. Section 21 is an absolute exemption, there is no requirement to consider the public interest in making the decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may be interested to know that the recorded information you have requested can be viewed at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-compensation-and-occupational-pension-schemes-synopses-of-causation>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/independent-medical-expert-group>

In respect of request two: A search for the information has now been completed within the MOD and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held. This is because Veterans UK has no Medical Advisers with the initials KA.

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 black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Defence Business Services Secretariat