



Ministry
of Defence

Our Ref: FOI2021/10551/10591

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29 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your two e-mails of 16 September one for MOD regarding Main Building and one for Strategic Command, we assume you mean MOD Northwood site when you refer to Strategic Command, but if you could clarify that is what you mean please. As your first question is just asking for UK MOD this would cover the whole of the department so not sure why you have asked a separate identical request for UK Strategic Command as well?

Your request has been sent to the Directorate of Defence Communications for a response within the Ministry of Defence, though this is not something we are responsible for I have been asked to clarify your request so it can be tasked to the appropriate department. In its current format we cannot understand what it is that you want to know. You have asked the following:

"I am a great fan of British history, in particular its deep and glory war history. And I also noticed there are a lot of sculptures and memorials around the MOD main building, which is fascinating and demonstrating great culture of UK War history.

So my question is that how does UK MOD (and UK Strategic Command) to pay tribute to, foster, and promote its military culture and history by these culture building collections, i mean the sculpture, motto, memorials. what are the unique features and the way to do it. Can you elaborate on these collections and the way to pay tribute to, foster and promote these history and cultures.

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

As advised above more information is needed before we can respond to your requests. Are you referring to just the statues outside of Main Building for example,

and what exactly do you want to know about them? You go on to mention sculptures, and assume you mean memorials (not sure what you mean by motto?).

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) as you are interested in art in general you may wish to view publicly available information about the Government Art Collection using the link below. They are responsible for the majority of art works and sculptures now within all government departments including the Ministry of Defence.

<https://artcollection.culture.gov.uk/>

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) used to have an Art Collection but this has been disestablished and ownership of the most significant works have been transferred to museums and other public bodies to ensure their continued protection and public display. The RAF Royal Navy and British Army all have museums which may have some information interesting to you. Their websites can be found by searching on the Internet.

I have also been advised that the statues and war memorials outside Main Building are owned and maintained by Westminster Council so would not be within the remit of an FOI request for the MOD as they are not our responsibility.

If you could explain exactly what it is you want in more detail then we may be able to help you further.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

DDC Secretariat Parliamentary