



Defence Business Services

Secretariat
Room 6303
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Ref: FOI2022/07081

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

11 July 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 12 June 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

“With reference to your letter dated the 10th June at Para 11 you state, “11. This part of your request appears to be seeking a yes/no response. I can advise you that there is no internal MOD or Veterans UK policy that requires risk assessments to be conducted before corresponding with veterans claiming mental health issues. As there is no specific policy or documentation that provides an answer to this part of your request the substantive response correctly advised you that no information is held”.

I am sorry to seem picky but do you carry out any risk assessments after you have corresponded with veterans claiming mental health issues? Your answer seems to imply that you do, so could this be clarified pse? I am talking about veterans with complex mental health issues which could lead to them taking their own lives if not treated correctly.”

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 no information in scope of your request is held.

Under Section 16 of the FOI (Help and Assistance) you may wish to be aware that Veterans UK do not routinely carry out risk assessments after the Department has corresponded with veterans claiming mental health issues, as this is not part of the claim process.

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