



Ministry of Defence

Army Policy and Secretariat
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[REDACTED]

28 September 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 30 August 2022 in which you requested the following information:

1. In the 24-month period from 30th August 2020 to 29th August 2022 how many unannounced night visits (between 10pm and 6am) did your Board conduct - and if 'none' please explain why. By 'unannounced' I mean visits that took place when the attendance of a Board member or members was not at the request of the establishment you monitor, but was an exercise of the right of access 'at any time' the Board possesses and was therefore at the instigation of the Board or a member of it.

2. What is the current

i. Certified Normal Accommodation and

ii. Operational Capacity

of the establishment, your Board is appointed to Monitor?

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

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds some of this information.

In the 24-month period from 30 August 2020 to 29 August 2022 the MOD Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC) Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) did not conduct any unannounced visits between 10 pm and 6 am. This is because in order to fulfil their remit, Board Members must conduct visits to monitor the facility and during the monitoring visits must see all detainees, including taking their applications for an individual meeting with a Board Member regarding a personal issue. As the MCTC operates a night regime between 10 pm and 6 am, they would not be able to take applications for individual meetings due to the security state of the accommodation.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act, I can advise that the MCTC at Colchester is not a prison nor is it subject to prison guidelines, but I am able to provide the following information:

The IMB comes under the [Service Custody and Service of Relevant Sentences Rules 2009](#), not the Prisons Act/Prison Rules. Current MCTC capacity is 264 spaces.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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.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