



Defence Business Services
Secretariat
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Ref: FOI2022/09677

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

15 September 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 17 August 2022 to the Defence Business Services Secretariat , requesting the following information:

“This is the meeting .I require all the minutes from this and also what was discussed between medical advisors at veterans uk and tribunal medical specialists, I also require any other meeting between vets uk and any tribunal members .

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322169/SW_VAPC_Mins_21_Jan_13.pdf

And the below .

Basically as previous email and below .

I am looking for the subsequent minutes fm VAPC south west meetings after January 2013 , and the rest of that year and maybe into 2014 to see if MAs actually met tribunal Dr and what was discussed or decided .

You took this long to come back with nothing , I am after what was discussed in 2013 and specifically the medical advisors meeting up with tribunal panel medical specialists? Also any further meetings after 2013 between any staff at veterans uk and any tribunal panel members .

It was clear what i asked for !

I think this was also a vab meeting and vapc may have been In attendance.”

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. Veterans UK and the Veterans' Advisory and Pensions Committee (VAPC) have no record of any minutes relating to the information you have requested.

Under Section 16 (Help and Assistance) of the FOIA, you may wish to be aware that the Chair of the South-West VAPC has confirmed that no members on the Committee hold minutes dating back to 2013/2014. This is because each member can only be appointed for a three-year period. A member can be reappointed for a further three years, however, applications must be

submitted externally through fair and open competition. The Chair has also confirmed that there are no current South-West VAPC members that were present during 2013/2014. Veterans UK (formally known as the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency), Medical Advisers have confirmed they have no knowledge of the proposed meeting recorded in the VAPC notes, between SPVA Medical Advisers and Tribunal Medical Members.

The Tribunal Presidents are strict about maintaining the independence of tribunals; therefore, it is very unlikely that the Presidents would have allowed a meeting between SPVA Medical Advisers and Tribunal Medical Members to proceed.

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



Defence Business Services Secretariat