



# Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2022/10064

RFI: 190/22

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE:  
INFORMATION ABOUT STONEWALL WORKPLACE EQUALITY INDEX (WEI).**

We refer to your email dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

- 1. Confirm whether your organisation applied to be part of the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index in A) 2018 (for 2019), B) 2019 (for 2020) or C) 2021 (for 2022) (NB the index was suspended in 2020/21 because of Covid)**
- 2. Give details of the total amount of money you paid to Stonewall in 2021 whether or not as payment for goods or services.**
- 3. State whether you intend to continue your membership of any Stonewall scheme in the future, and if so which.**

If the answer to any part of 1 is yes please supply:

- 4. Any application you made in 2021 to be included on Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index, including any attachments or appendices to those applications. Please redact personal details if necessary.**
- 5. Any feedback you received in 2018/19 or 2019/20 or 2021/22 from Stonewall in relation to either application or programme. This must include the priorities or objectives written by your organisation's representative at the end of the feedback**

**form (under the heading 'Priorities for the year ahead' in 2019; 'Your priorities' in 2020).**

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

**1. Confirm whether your organisation applied to be part of the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index in A) 2018 (for 2019), B) 2019 (for 2020) or C) 2021 (for 2022) (NB the index was suspended in 2020/21 because of Covid)**

**A) 2018 (for 2019) - No**

**B) 2019 (for 2020) - Yes**

**C) 2021 (for 2022) - No**

**2. Give details of the total amount of money you paid to Stonewall in 2021 whether or not as payment for goods or services.**

£1400 – Conference/Awareness Training

**3. State whether you intend to continue your membership of any Stonewall scheme in the future, and if so which.**

Yes, renew Membership.

**If the answer to any part of 1 is yes please supply:**

**4. Any application you made in 2021 to be included on Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index, including any attachments or appendices to those applications. Please redact personal details if necessary.**

No information held.

**5. Any feedback you received in 2018/19 or 2019/20 or 2021/22 from Stonewall in relation to either application or programme. This must include the priorities or objectives written by your organisation's representative at the end of the feedback form (under the heading 'Priorities for the year ahead' in 2019; 'Your priorities' in 2020).**

We are withholding the Workplace Equality Index (WEI) Feedback form, received from Stonewall for 2019/20, under Section 41 of the FOIA (Information provided in confidence).

We have considered the Commissioner's guidance on the Section 41 exemption and we are satisfied that all criteria can be met. Feedback was provided to the MDP from a third party organisation, Stonewall, whose terms and conditions of membership explicitly state that information provided by them is confidential. Although disclosure would provide transparency, breaching our duty of confidence would have a commercial impact on Stonewall, which would be actionable.

We acknowledge the Decision Notices against the University of Oxford (IC-129040-Y4T2) and the University of Huddersfield (IC-125081-Q8J6). However, we refer you to the Decision Notice for Cheshire East Council (IC-98477-S4V6) which supports the application of Section 41 FOIA, for withholding the WEI Feedback form.

Under Section 16 (advice and assistance) of the FOIA you may wish to rephrase your questions and resubmit them, to avoid asking for information that is given to the MOD in confidence.

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

**MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office**