



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

Secretariat
Room 6303
Tomlinson House
Norcross
Thornton-Cleveleys
Lancashire FY5 3WP

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.uk

Ref: FOI2022/12642

14 November 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 17 October 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

“Finally, please can the VWS and JPAC confirm how many of their staff have attended some form of PTSD awareness course?”

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 Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds no recorded information that would provide an answer to the question you have asked in your request. You may find it useful to know that The Information Commissioners Office publishes guidance on how to make requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act at the attached link which you may find helpful in any follow up requests for information.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information>

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOIA, you may be interested to know that all Veterans Welfare Service Managers receive the MOD Mental Health First Aid training which supports and assists in identifying poor mental health. In addition to this, bespoke training is provided with the most recent training being provided on conversations with vulnerable adults and safeguarding. Welfare managers are not mental health specialists but will direct veterans to specialist support should a concern be identified.

All JPAC staff take part in mental health awareness exercises and mandatory training with references to mental health. They will also advise Veterans Welfare Service if they perceive that any serving or veteran members may require assistance for mental health conditions who will arrange the appropriate support if required.

A full list of training available and undertaken by Veterans UK staff can be found at Annex A.

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 (or by e-mail using the following address 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)