

Ref: FOI2022/01662

[DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk)

16 June 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 1 February 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about Pte Colin McCullough.

You requested the following information:

*"I refer to your letter of 11 January 2022 to Sir Jeffrey Donaldson regarding the request for the erection of a military headstone at the grave of Pte Colin McCullough, Ulster Defence Regiment. Thank you for the time you have taken considering this matter.*

*I write to request all information held, in all formats, by the Ministry of Defence in relation to the above referenced matter. In particular, but not exclusively, I would welcome the following;*

- 1. All Ministerial submissions and correspondence.*
- 2. Policy guidance and office procedures relating to the erection of military headstones.*
- 3. Information held on files retained by the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC).*
- 4. All Visiting Officer's reports that are required to be completed in accordance with Joint Service Publication JSP 751 Volume 1.*
- 5. Information held on files retained by TNT.*
- 6. Information held by Graves Casework"*

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 some information in scope of your request is held. Some information has been redacted under Sections 40(1) and 40(2) of the FOI Act in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there are no requirements to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information. I will answer your specific questions individually.

**Q1** – Please see the relevant attached annexes listed below;

Annex A	Ministerial Correspondence - 25 November 2021 - MC2021/13039
Annex B	Ministerial Correspondence - 11 January 2022 - MC2021/15552

**Q2** – Please see the relevant attached annex listed below;

Annex C	Policy extract from JSP 751, Vol 2, Chapter 8
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**Q3** – Please see the relevant attached annexes listed below;

Annex D	Ministerial Correspondence including background notes - MC2021/13039
Annex E	Ministerial Correspondence including background notes - MC2021/15552
Annex F	Email hastener - November 2018
Annex G	Desk Officer Input - 29 October 2021 - MC2021/13039
Annex H	Email on Secretariat draft - 20 December 2021 - MC2021/13039
Annex I	Email Trail - October 2021 to November 2021 - MC2021/13039
Annex J	Email Trail - December 2021 to January 2022 - MC2021/15552
Annex K	AFMD Personal Details Record
Annex L	Policy – Provision of Memorials V6
Annex M	TNT File Request - November 2019

**Q4** – This information is not held. This is because the JSP 751 was not in existence until April 2005 and, unlike today, it was the unit that supported families until after the funeral. As such, no Visiting Officer reports are available.

**Q5** – The attached annexes in relation to Question 3 are what the Joint Casualty and Compassion Centre (JCCC) hold in relation to Pte McCullough's funeral. This information includes anything from the army file stored at TNT.

**Q6** – Please see the relevant attached annexes listed below;

Annex N	Pte McCullough - Undertaker Accounts Ledger
Annex O	Burial Return - September 1990
Annex P	Email Exchange – November 2019 to January 2020

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](mailto: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 area.

DBS Secretariat