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01 July 2022

Dear

Thank you for your email of 16 June 2022 in which you requested the following information:

"I'm emailing yourselves to find out if he has provided you with any 'actual' proof that he is an ex-Major in the RLC (TA), or even an Officer in the now defunct RAOC"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. I am writing to advise you that in accordance with Section 40 (5) the Department neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any information in scope of your request. This is because of our duty to protect individuals' personal data. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is no need to consider the public interest. You should not infer from this reply that we either do, or do not, hold the information requested.

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 <u>CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk</u>). 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 <a href="https://ico.org.uk/">https://ico.org.uk/</a>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Policy & Secretariat