

Ref: FOI2022/14933

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

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

13 January 2023

## Dear

Thank you for your email of 13 December 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

"I asked both veterans affairs and veterans uk for a copy of the lives experience meeting that took place in October / November and head of veterans uk Caroline hull confirmed to all that minutes we're being taken and available to all who requested them, there seems to be a serious cover up as both veterans affairs and vets uk dbs declined my foi for these minutes, can yous clarify if yous have them as now out of time for the request."

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.

Your request falls entirely within the scope of section 14(2) - Repeat request. You have already received a response on behalf of the Department for the same information (FOI2022/12359 dated 14 November 2022) which has also been the subject of internal review by the MOD Information Rights and Compliance Team (dated 13 December 2022). The review upheld the position previously advised to you by us that the information requested was not held because no formal minutes were taken at the event.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I have to advise you that if you submit any further requests for the same information, knowing that it does not exist, the Department will have no option but to declare your requests on this subject vexatious under section 14(1) of the Act and ignore any further enquiries on the subject.

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 <u>CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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



Defence Business Services Secretariat