



**Defence Business Services**

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Ref: FOI2022/15244

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

24 January 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 20 December 2022 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

Following the receipt of our response to FOI2022/14325 asking:

*"Can I request as copy of the minutes from the meeting that took place recently between Veterans UK and the vapc chairs"*

You emailed on 20 December 2022 requesting the following:

*"So where are bullet points ?  
I want my request passed to head of veterans uk as it was her / Caroline hull who stated minutes were available to all and by law minutes must be taken to show moving forwards what was discussed in full including problems veterans raised?"*

On the same day, you then followed up your email by asking:

*"Please action the below request and also pass to head of veterans uk who at the lived experience meeting confirmed to all in attendance that minutes were being taken and Available to all who wanted them .  
Also I require a copy of points mentioned in the below poor response."*

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 some information in scope of your request is held.

As previously explained in our response of 20 December 2022, full minutes of the VAPC Chairs' Conference are not recorded. However, a record is taken of any action points which are collated and recorded as a "Record of Decisions" (RODs). I can confirm that the RODs are currently in draft awaiting clarification from some attendees. .

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) I can advise that the deadline for approval of the RODs is 10 February 2023, after which I can consider a new request for the RODs should you wish to submit one after that date.

With regard to the Action Points from the Lived Experience Event, the information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of an absolute exemption under Section 21 of the FOIA as it is reasonably accessible by other means. As Section 21 is an absolute exemption, there is no requirement to consider the public interest in making the decision to withhold the information.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may be interested to know that the Action Points have been published on gov.uk and a news story with a link is on the Veterans-UK page as follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/serving-the-veteran-better-mods-veterans-uk-lived-experience-events>.

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 of the Defence Business Services Secretariat.

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