



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Business Services

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

Ref: FOI2023/00278

Email: DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) requesting the following information:

You had originally requested the following information:

*"I would like to make an FOI on the recent intentions exercise which took place for MOD staff in Liverpool and ended on 6/12/22 I wishing to declare their intentions in relation to the WORK PLACE PROGRAM
Please provide number of responses to the exercise
Breakdown of grades wishing to stay and leave
Breakdown of area and responses"*

On 9 January you clarified your request as detailed below:

"Just to clarify there was an intentions exercise held in DBS WALKER HOUSE which closed on the 6th December 2022 to determine what numbers of staff would like to move to Blackpool and what number would not like to so I am basically asking for the number of responses received to the intentions exercise and the number of staff who said they want to move with their post to Blackpool and the numbers of staff who said they would not want to move with their post to Blackpool and by grade to the above"

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 all the information in scope of your request is held. However, an exemption under Section 36(4) of the FOIA, *Prejudice to Effective Conduct of Public Affairs, Statistical Information*, has been applied to your request.

Section 36 is a qualified exemption subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the

public interest in disclosure. A Public Interest Test was therefore undertaken and the balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information.

Releasing the information would promote openness and transparency. However the intentions exercise is ongoing until 31 March 2023. Early release of incomplete data may result in incomplete and false assumptions. Once the exercise is completed and the data has been analysed, it will be shared with the Trade Unions and recommendations will be made to the Defence Business Services Management Board.

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). 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 box redacting the signature of the official.

Defence Business Services (Secretariat)