



Ministry of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2023/04309

DBSRES-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

24 April 2023

Thank you for your email of 28 March 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), requesting the following information:

*“...can you confirm through Freedom of Information that all conditions are being accessed including
Hearing Deterioration ,and all conditions attributable to Service !*

Can I Also enquire on Decision Date of at all Appropriate !”

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 neither confirm nor deny whether the MOD holds the information you have requested.

We are not obliged to confirm or deny whether we hold the information as if held, this would relate to personal information. Section 40(5) of the FOIA provides that there is no duty to confirm or deny whether we hold the information. A release under FOIA is assumed to be a release to the public at large, therefore, admitting to holding or not holding information would be to breach the fair processing principal of the Data Protection Act.

The fact that Section 40(5) of the FOIA has been cited should not be taken as an indication that the information you have requested is or is not held by the Department. The terms of this exemption of the FOIA mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for us to reveal whether or not the information is held.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) the department has an obligation to offer as much advice and assistance as is reasonably practicable. Therefore, I have passed your request to the relevant War Pension Scheme (WPS) Operational team.

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,



Defence Business Services Secretariat