



**Defence Business Services**  
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Ref: FOI2023/06970

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04 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 6 June 2023 to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), seeking information about the MOD's engagement with Insights Discovery (ID).

You requested the following information:

*"I write to request the following information of the Ministry of Defence:*

1. *How many employees/members of staff work for the Ministry of Defence?*
2. *In each of the last five fiscal years (assume April to April), how many of your staff members have undertaken an Insights Discovery profile?*

*Please break the results down by year.*

3. *In each of the last five fiscal years (assume April to April), how has the Ministry of Defence spent on Insights Discovery profiles for staff members?*

*Please break the results down by year.*

4. *Do you currently have a policy on staff members undertaking Insight Discovery profiles?*
  - a. *If so, could you confirm if they are considered optional or mandatory for staff members?*
5. *In the last five years, which companies have you engaged with over the provision of Insight Discovery profiles?*

*Please interpret my request in the broadest possible terms. If you have any doubt as to whether any information falls within the scope of my request, please assume that it does and include it in your response.*

*Please provide the information by email in either Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf), Microsoft Word .docx or .doc format, Microsoft Excel .xlsx or .xls format or, if appropriate, in the body of the email. Information supplied in pdf format should be text searchable using Adobe Reader. All responses and documents must permit printing and content copying."*

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 some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested for question one 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 wish to know that Published civilian personnel totals for departmental strength can be found in Tables 1 (FTE) and 3 (Headcount) of the Biannual Civilian Personnel Report at the following link:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-biannual-civilian-personnel-statisticsindex](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-biannual-civilian-personnel-statisticsindex)

For questions 2 – 5, the information that you have requested is not held. There is currently no civilian policy or central contract for employees to undertake Insight Discovery profiles, and any decision to take up such training is at the discretion of line managers and their budget holders.

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



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