



Ministry
of Defence

[Redacted]

FOI2021/10382

E-mail: NavyStratPol-SECFOI@mod.gov.uk

[Redacted]

21 October 2021

Dear [Redacted],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 September 2021 in which you requested the following information:

- '1. I would like to know why all of a sudden the recruitment policy for residency changed.
2. Who is responsible for making these decisions?
3. Who are these grievances to be addressed to?'

Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

A search has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. As FOI is a release to the public at large, we cannot comment on individual cases as it would put us in breach of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018.

However, in response to questions one and two of your request, I can advise you that the recruitment policy has not changed; the security policy remains dynamic and reactive, and is being correctly applied. It is elements of the security Policy which have resulted in a residency requirement.

Although the UK residency criterion for immigration purposes was removed in November 2018, UK residency criteria continues to exist for security vetting purposes.

Security vetting levels differ according to Service and role, and applicants must meet all security vetting requirements: this may include elements of UK residency criteria.

RN applicants will not now be considered for a security clearance from certain countries until they have resided in UK for a minimum of five years.

With regard to question three, there are currently no grounds for appeal.

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.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

Navy Command Secretariat - FOI Section