



Ministry
of Defence

[REDACTED]

FOI2021/07139

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

[REDACTED]

2 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Release of Information

Thank you for your correspondence on 2 July 2021 in which you requested the following information:

'Good day, please I'd like to know why of recent the home office made a decision not to grant security clearance to candidates from India, Pakistan and Nigeria applying for various roles in the Royal Navy. A decision which was made known to the Royal Navy and therefore had the application of these candidates from the aforementioned countries withdrawn.

I also want to know if the decision by the home office permanent, temporary or subject to appeal. If it is subject to appeal what are steps to be taken.'

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

A search has been completed within the Ministry of Defence and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

In response to your request, I can advise you that the Home Office has not taken a decision to deny security clearances to Royal Navy (RN) candidates applying from Pakistan, India and Nigeria; this was a RN security vetting decision not to accept applications where there is a lack of UK residency. Although the UK residency criterion for immigration purposes was removed in November 2018, UK residency criteria still exists for security vetting purposes. Security vetting levels differ according to Service and role and applicants must meet all security vetting requirements, which may include UK residency criteria. RN applicants will not now be considered for a security clearance from Pakistan, India and Nigeria until they have resided in UK for a minimum of five years.

There are no grounds for appeal, however, if/when this requirement is met the RN will consider applications for security clearance from candidates from these countries with each case assessed on its own merits. This decision was influenced by several factors and is neither temporary or permanent; this could change/revert if circumstances dictate.

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