



Our Ref: FOI2023/11858

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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2 October 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 September requesting the following information:

*"Dear Ministry of Defence Police, I am writing to request information about*

- 1. Any guidelines or standards your force uses when communicating about road traffic collisions. These guidelines may relate to the language used when staff write press releases, or speak about traffic crashes to the press and public, defining any terms to avoid or to include when doing so. Please include such guidelines or standards in your reply.*
- 2. Whether use of these guidelines is mandatory in communications, say, with the public and press. If not, please explain on what basis they are applied."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information requested has been undertaken and I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not hold any information within scope of your request. As advised your request has been forwarded to the Directorate of Defence Communications (DDC) for a response as the lead in the Department for all press enquiries. The MOD police do not deal directly with media outlets, any such enquiries would be directed to DDC for a response. There are no specific guidelines or standards that apply when communicating specifically about road traffic collisions.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act, advice and assistance, you may wish to know that all DDC issued press statements are approved as a matter of course by a senior MOD official prior to release regardless of the subject matter. As part of the approval process Ministers offices are also sighted on press statements before release.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,  
DDC Secretariat Parliamentary