



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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E-mail: MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2024/02734

RFI: 035/24

Date: 12 March 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: THE 'THIN BLUE LINE BADGE' ON MDP UNIFORMS

We refer to your email dated 13 February 2024 to the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP), which was acknowledged on 14 February 2024.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

Some MDP constables wear the 'thin blue line badge' on their uniform, which is produced by the Care of Police Survivors (COPS) charity. :

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fukcops.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMDP-FOI-DP%40mod.gov.uk%7Cdc0615f0339a4b9fa11a08dc2ce07438%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C1%7C638434589743101563%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uteuT20vEH%2Fi8yydgcXWplOB2IA5gonDSgGsTXw04ro%3D&reserved=0>

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fregister-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk%2Fcharity-search%2F-%2Fcharity-details%2F5090168&data=05%7C02%7CMDP-FOI-DP%40mod.gov.uk%7Cdc0615f0339a4b9fa11a08dc2ce07438%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C1%7C638434589743109486%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=a1rL0rk2J9vjxT0lydrKwFrSoo9CP7woLBGbbImfK4%3D&reserved=0>

1. Can you confirm that you endorse the wearing of this badge?

2. Please provide information relating to the circumstances MDP constables can and cannot wear the badge.

I could only find the following information about the wearing of items on uniform, which relates to the army:

'59.07. Wearing of promotional items supporting charities. Many charities provide promotional items such as the Poppy or wristbands for supporters to wear. It is permissible to wear such items in certain order of dress providing that it is an officially authorised charity and the Army Dress Committee has endorsed the particular item. The Poppy supporting the Royal British Legion and the Earl Haig Fund was approved for wear in all order of dress some time ago. Wristbands are a popular promotional item and these may be worn providing that...

https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F1028880%2F20210810_AGAI_059.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CMDP-FOI-DP%40mod.gov.uk%7Cdc0615f0339a4b9fa11a08dc2ce07438%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C1%7C638434589743118465%7CUnknown%7CTWfPbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SIF7chylzKFctvy65FgUr38Q92poscwi3FVfzT%2BJZd4%3D&reserved=0

3. Please provide the rules relating to the wearing of promotional items by charities that apply specifically to MDP constables.

4. Please provide the number of MDP constables who lost their lives in the line of duty over the last 10 years.

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that the MDP does hold information in scope of your request.

1. Can you confirm that you endorse the wearing of this badge?

No information held.

2. Please provide information relating to the circumstances MDP constables can and cannot wear the badge.

No information held.

3. Please provide the rules relating to the wearing of promotional items by charities that apply specifically to MDP constables.

No information held.

4. Please provide the number of MDP constables who lost their lives in the line of duty over the last 10 years.

None.

Currently we have no policy in relation to the wearing of the Thin Blue Line badge or other charity items. Uniform policy is an operational decision, for which the Chief Constable of each force, has responsibility. No national guidance has been issued.

If you are not satisfied with 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

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office