



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 2024/05544

RFI: 071/24

Date: 07 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS DISMISSED AFTER VETTING IN THE PAST 10 YEARS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

We refer to your email dated 04 April 2024 to the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP), which was acknowledged on 04 April 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:

1. How many police officers are employed by Ministry of Defence Police?
2. How many of them have been vetted in the last a) three years b) five years c) ten years
3. How many officers have you stripped of their duties after they were vetted in the past 10 years? This data should be provided on an annual basis
4. How many vetting reports have expired and not been redone? How many of those are for former officers?

Clarification:

Please clarify for question 3 what you mean by 'stripped of their duties'. Do you mean, officers who have been dismissed after they were vetted, as a result of misconduct during their employment?

Clarification response:

Thank you for email. Yes that is exactly right, the data of the number of officers dismissed after vetting.

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

1. How many police officers are employed by Ministry of Defence Police?

As at 31 March 2024, 2407 officers were employed.

2. How many of them have been vetted in the last a) three years b) five years c) ten years

28/02/2021 to 01/03/2024
Vetting granted for 1085 officers.

28/02/2019 to 01/03/2024
Vetting granted for 1485 officers.

28/02/2014 to 01/03/2024
Vetting granted for 2092 officers.

3. How many officers have you stripped of their duties after they were vetted in the past 10 years? This data should be provided on an annual basis

The number of vetted officers dismissed as a result of misconduct investigations by the Professional Standards Department in the past 10 years is 13. These officers had undergone UK Security Vetting (UKSV) and Police Vetting.

We are withholding the annual breakdown, as the duty in Section 1(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the exemption in Section 40 (2) Personal Information.

Section 40(2) requires the Department to conduct a balancing exercise, this exercise involves balancing the rights and interests of individuals against the legitimate interests in disclosure, this is not the same as carrying out the public interest test associated with certain exemptions in FOIA. The balancing exercise is carried out in order to decide whether the absolute exemption in section 40(2) is engaged. In particular, there is no assumption of disclosure in the legitimate interests test, as there is with qualified exemptions. The outcome of the balancing exercise is to withhold the information requested as releasing an annual breakdown might enable members of the public or colleagues to identify employees due to low numbers in some years.

4. How many vetting reports have expired and not been redone? How many of those are for former officers?

There are 15 officers with expired vetting, or vetting due to expire, who are all currently being re-vetted. When police officers leave the MDP, their vetting is immediately 'discontinued' which means there are no former officers with expired vetting.

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