



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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RAF Wyton, Huntingdon,

Cambs, PE28 2EA

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

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2024/06354

RFI: 078/24

Date: 30 May 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS REGARDING THEIR CONDUCT IN THEIR PERSONAL LIVES OF DOMESTIC

We refer to your email dated 22 April 2024 to the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP), which was acknowledged on 22 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 serving with your force had a complaint of domestic violence made against them in each of the last three calendar years (i) 2021, (ii) 2022 and (iii) 2023?**
- 2. In (i) how many of these cases was disciplinary action taken against the officer and (ii) was some sort of disciplinary sanction imposed on the officer?**
- 3. For each case where a sanction was imposed please detail what this sanction was**

NOTE: To clarify, this request relates to complaints made against police officers regarding their conduct in their personal lives. It is not asking about complaints concerning how police officers responded while on the job attending cases of alleged domestic abuse.

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

- 1. How many police officers serving with your force had a complaint of domestic violence made against them in each of the last three calendar years (i) 2021, (ii) 2022 and (iii) 2023?**

2021 = 4

2022 = 7

2023 = 5

The MDP can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any information relevant to covert investigations as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 30(3) - Investigations and proceedings conducted by the public authority

Section 31(3) - Law enforcement

Section 40(5) - Personal information

Sections 30 and 31 are prejudice based qualified exemptions and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or denying that information is held by carrying out a public interest test.

I have conducted a public interest test and, while the MDP understands the importance of releasing information that is in the public interest, it is has been concluded that the balance strongly favours neither confirming or denying the Ministry of Defence Police holds any other information.

Section 30 (3) is applied because confirming, or not, that information exists could compromise ongoing investigations.

Section 31(3) is applied because confirming, or not, that information is held would risk undermining the investigative process.

When citing s40(5), there is a requirement to consider whether disclosure would be fair. In this case release would not be fair and therefore section 40(5) is classed as absolute and there is no requirement to consider the public interest.

No inference can be taken from this response that information relating to covert investigations does or does not exist.

2. In (i) how many of these cases was disciplinary action taken against the officer and (ii) was some sort of disciplinary sanction imposed on the officer?

2021 = i) 3 ii) 3

2022 = i) 6 ii) 1 (4 cases are ongoing)

2023 = i) 3 ii) 0 (3 cases are ongoing)

The MDP can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any information relevant to covert investigations as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 30(3) - Investigations and proceedings conducted by the public authority

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No inference can be taken from this response that information relating to covert investigations does or does not exist.

3. For each case where a sanction was imposed please detail what this sanction was

Reflective Practice

Dismissed

Written Warning 18 months

Reflective Practice

Complaints against officers are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly by the Professional Standards Department (PSD). The MDP expects all staff to demonstrate the highest possible standards of behaviour and conduct, at all times, and will take suitable action against anyone that fails to maintain these standards. The action taken will depend on the outcome of PSD investigations and will reflect the severity of any misconduct identified.

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