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Mr A Gibbons

Request-1520-1bdef482@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Gibbons

Request for Information – Final Response

Thank you for your request for information received 31 July 2008, which requested information regarding ex-serviceman R G Holloway P/064195 and details of Navy policy on personal items that are worn on duty. Your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Regretfully I cannot supply the personal information regarding RG Holloway you have requested as this would be in breach of the Data Protection Principles as laid down in the 1998 Data Protection Act, and hence is information classed as exempt from disclosure under s40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is an absolute exemption under the FOI Act and does not require a Public Interest Test.

I am however able to pass on details of Navy policy regarding on personal items allowed to be worn on duty. These are:

- Visible civilian items of apparel shall not be worn except where specifically authorised in Royal Navy and Royal Marines Uniform Regulations.
- Jewellery:
 - Apart from wrist watches and cuff links where appropriate, no jewellery is to be worn with uniform other than:
 - Signet, engagement and wedding ring for male personnel.
 - Signet, engagement and wedding ring, with single small plain gold sleeper stud (not more than 6mm in diameter) earring in each earlobe for female personnel.
 - Local Orders for Royal Guards or other occasions of major ceremony may further limit items of jewellery to be worn.
- Body piercing:
 - Even where another part of the body other than the ear has been pierced or prepared, whether for any ring, stud or sleeper, no such items are to be worn.
- Glasses and Sunglasses:
 - Both shall be of conservative design and colour. Carrying cases shall not be visibly carried in or on uniform dress. Personnel who normally wear glasses may wear either conventionally framed prescription sunglasses or conservatively styled clip-on sunglasses when conditions and circumstance dictate.

- Mirrored lenses shall not be worn by personnel in uniform. These lenses, also referred to as half-silver mirrors, have a highly reflective metallic substance deposited on the surface, thereby creating a mirrored effect.

I hope this response satisfies your request in terms of the policy details you have requested at least. I have explained above why I am unable to supply the personal information you have requested.

If you are unhappy 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 Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail xxxxxxx@xxx.xx.) Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within two calendar months of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain unhappy 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 the case until the 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, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>

Yours Sincerely

Mike Demetriou

The Constitution Unit, a research body at University College London, is carrying out an independent evaluative study of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in co-operation with a number of public authorities, including the Ministry of Defence. An important part of the evaluation process is gathering the experiences and opinions of FOI requesters like you. Any information you provide will only be seen by the Constitution Unit and will be handled in accordance with its privacy policy explained in the survey. The Ministry of Defence will only see the published results: no individual responses will be visible to us and your participation will have no effect on your future dealings with the Ministry.

If you would like to take part in this study, please visit the following link to be taken directly to the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/6prff8>. Or, if you prefer, contact Ben Worthy at b.worthy@ucl.ac.uk or on 020 7679 4974 to ask more about the study.

If you have filled this survey out before, we invite you to fill it out again in light of the recent response to your request.