



Ministry of Defence

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Ref: Army/Sec/Cts/UK/FOI2020/08907

Dr E Briant
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37c34319@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:37c34319@whatdotheyknow.com)

1 September 2020

Dear Dr Briant

Thank you for your email of 3 August 2020 in which you made the following request:

The Cabinet Office has hired Topham Guerin on a contract for communications response during COVID19 - in the contract it states that there would be weekly meetings with 77 Brigade - "to review fake news mitigation efforts and provide recommendations on further actions to take". Please could you tell me during 2019:

- a) how many meetings, emails, phonecalls or other interactions have occurred between staff or reserves at 77Bgd and representatives of Topham Guerin, when these occurred and what the purpose was*
- b) could I see any correspondence, minutes or other documents that relate to such interaction including any reports or recommendations provided*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). A search for the information you requested has been completed and I can advise that information is not held by the Ministry of Defence. Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), I can advise that there was no recorded contact between 77th Brigade staff and representatives of Topham Guerin in 2019. For further information about any Cabinet Office contract, we recommend that you liaise with the Cabinet Office.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about 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.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 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,

Army Secretariat