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Peter Jones
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ArmyHQ/Sec/03/02/69726

Date 29 January 2013

Dear Mr Jones,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CASE NUMBER: 02-01-2013-164024-022

Your correspondence dated 31 December has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

As I have previously mentioned (your ref: 091636-003), back in October 2012 the Liverpool Echo ran an article called "Three sacked in disturbing Merseyside army cadet cruelty probe". The article explained how three Merseyside ACF CFAVs had been disciplined after a cadet was allegedly assaulted at Crowborough Camp in August 2012.

I am now led to believe that as a result of these allegations the CEO of Merseyside ACF delivered a "morning of education and counselling" at HQ Merseyside ACF on 22nd October 2012. During this session the CEO was focusing on the "Principles and Safe Working Practices when Working with Children".

Under the terms of the 2000 Act, please now provide the following information:

1. Copies of any course materials that were used in the CEO Merseyside ACF's "education and counselling" session of 22nd October 2012. This includes any images, presentations or handouts used or provided during the session.
2. Information, in general terms, about the training/qualifications/experience (or lack thereof) required for an ACF CEO to deliver "education and counselling" on child protection matters.

In accordance with section 11 of the 2000 Act, I require your response to be delivered in PDF file format to the return email address associated with this request.

This letter is to inform you that the MOD holds information related to your request, I have listed below the documents available in response to question 1.

HM Government working together to safeguard children.

JSP 535 Cadet Training Safety Precautions part 1 2011.

Army Cadet Force Army Code 71310 Customs of Service.

Presentation wording used by CEO during the training session.

NSPCC Training & Consultancy, Designated Children's Safeguarding Officer course aims and objectives.

NSPCC Training & Consultancy, Designated Children's Safeguarding Officer course programme day 1.

NSPCC Training & Consultancy, Designated Children's Safeguarding Officer course programme day 2.

I have not provided you with a copy of the HM Government working together to safeguard children as Section 21 applies as the information is accessible by other means. You will however find it is available to download for free from <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DCSF-00305-2010>

The presentation wording document is a partial release as it contains personal information which has been removed under Section 40. As the exemptions applied are absolute, an assessment of the public interest for and against disclosure is not required under the terms of the Act.

You will also need to contact the NSPCC direct should you require further details of the course content as a fee is charged on delivery. All other documents are attached to the same e-mail message as this letter.

With regard to question 2, I can confirm that the Cadet Executive Officer (CEO), in each of the Army Cadet Force (ACF) Counties, is the nominated individual required to liaise with the Local Authority Designated Officer on safeguarding matters. They are also required to complete and submit 'Referrals' to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in relation to Safeguarding matters in accordance with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and other associated legislation. The CEO has therefore been trained to understand what constitutes a breach of the 2006 Act and the Referral process. The CEO is also responsible for sharing this level of understanding and knowledge with other members of the ACF and give advice accordingly. The NSPCC Training & Consultancy, Designated Children's Safeguarding Officer course conducted in 2011, was specifically designed for the CEOs by the NSPCC and will be repeated later this year. All CEOs will attend with separate arrangements for CEOs in Scotland and the training which will be held (at this level) on a bi-annual basis. This is supported by the documents provided for question 1 and the Government working together guidance.

If you are not satisfied 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-xx@xxx.xx). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied 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 your case until the MOD 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.ico.gov.uk>.

Army Secretariat