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Ref: Army/Sec/St/FA/FOI2020/06720

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Dr Emma Briant request-670267-ed24b5db@whatdotheyknow.com

16 July 2020

Dear Dr Briant,

Thank you for your email of 13 June 2020 in which you made the following request:

Could I see any emails or communications from or to personnel in the 77th Brigade mentioning the academics Piers Robinson or David Miller from 2020 please?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

It is occasionally necessary to extend the 20 working day response time to consider the public interest of confirming or denying whether this information is held. Section 26(3) of the Act (Defence) is a qualified exemption and the Ministry of Defence is considering whether the public interest in maintaining the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether or not the Department holds any information.

When a qualified exemption is engaged and a public interest test must be conducted, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in relation to your request, we estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to make a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. We therefore plan to send a response to you by 12 August 2020. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will let you know.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat