



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Dr E Briant
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7 August 2020

Dear Dr Briant,

Thank you for your email dated 15 June in which you requested the following information:

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?

As advised in my letter dated 16 July, I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

I am writing to advise you that, in accordance with Section 40(5) (Personal Information) and Section 26(3) (Defence), the Department neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any information in scope of your request.

Section 40 is engaged because of our duty to protect individuals' personal data. It is an absolute exemption and there is no need to consider the public interest. Section 26 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a public interest test. It is engaged because, to either confirm or deny if information is held, would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces. A public interest test has been conducted and the balance of public interest lay in neither confirming nor denying whether the MOD held any information in scope of your request. This should not be used as an indication that such information is or is not held.

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