



Ministry of Defence

Army Secretariat
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R N Stebbings
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18 May 2018

Dear Mr Stebbings,

Thank you for your email of 18 April 2018 in which you requested the following information:

"Recently an email from Dave Mullock CEO of Lincoln ACF was sent out to members of Lincoln ACF.

This information relating to use of websites and Facebook groups that they deemed that their Cadet force adult volunteers are not permitted to use or access or be members of could you provide the following:

- 1. Can you provide a list of the banned Facebook groups, including the reasons and the decisions made into why they are considered banned?*
- 2. Any relevant policies, procedures and guidelines on how these bans are enforced. Can you also provide the legal basis for the monitoring of Facebook to identify volunteers who are members of these banned groups, including details of how the monitoring is carried out for this purpose?"*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that the information in scope of your request is not held.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it useful to note that the Army Cadet Force (ACF) does not currently operate a banned site list and consequently, the Army Cadet Force does not have an official policy on monitoring banned sites.

General direction and guidance on the acceptable use of the internet for all members of the ACF is provided by two documents: The ACF Marketing Directive and the Army Cadets Information Communication Technology Directive, which are accessible to all Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAVs). These documents cover the acceptable use policy and the expected behaviours when posting online. The scope of the ACF online directive covers "the posting of content on the Internet on behalf of or as a member of the Army Cadets." In addition, the values and standards of the Army Cadets is also set out in the Army Cadet Leadership Code which all members of the ACF are expected to adhere to.

The e-mail that was sent out to the Lincolnshire CFAVs was due to the nature of posts on the group website. It was felt that there was clear evidence that these posts could potentially bring the ACF into disrepute and that such actions would go against the Values and Standards of the ACF as set out in the guidance mentioned in the previous paragraph.

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 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 normally 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat