



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref. FOI2014/01813
Alvin Pritchard
request-214244-68aff655@whatdotheyknow.com

12 June 2014

Dear Mr Pritchard,

Thank you for your email dated 28 May 2013. You asked:

*"Have DA-Notices or D-Notices of any kind been used now or previously to request that the national media limit the reporting of Gulf War Syndrome & Illness Issues of any kind ?
If so, why and to whom have they been issued ?"*

I am writing to confirm that your enquiry has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000, and that the Ministry of Defence does not hold information within scope of your request.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (Advice and Assistance), You might wish to be aware that Defence Advisory (DA) Notices are issued and managed by the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee (DPBAC), which is an advisory body, and is not part of the Department. The DA-notice system is purely advisory. The advisory notices carry no legal weight and cannot be enforced. You can find details of the Committee and DA-Notice System at the following website: <http://www.dnotice.org.uk/>

The DPBAC and DA-Notice System do not fall under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) or the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) of 2002. Nonetheless, the DPBAC is committed to maximum disclosure wherever it is consistent with the effective conduct of business and adherence to any assurances of confidentiality it has given. I have received advice from the committee that no notices of this kind are, or have been, used to limit the reporting of Gulf War Syndrome or personal illness issues of any kind.

Any further queries on this matter should be addressed to the DPBAC Secretariat through their website.

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 Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-xxxxxx@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>.

Yours sincerely,

DMC Parliamentary Business
Directorate Media and Communication
Ministry of Defence