



**Joint Medical Group Secretariat**

**Headquarters Joint Medical Group**

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Mr Gavin Roberts

Reference: FOI2018/16009  
FOI2019/00065  
FOI2019/00220  
FOI2019/00468

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Date: 18 January 2019

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Dear Mr Roberts

Thank you for your recent enquiries to the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

On 17 December 2018 you wrote:

*“When was the last date MOD administered Pertusis and Anthrax simultaneously on troops on its Armed forces?”*

*When was the last date MOD administered multiple vaccines on its Armed Forces? (5 or more simultaneously and/or within 4 weeks)”*

On 2 January 2019 you wrote:

“MOD have stated before that troops in Gulf War 90/91 were given informed consent information surrounding the vaccine program.

Personally I did not receive any information or option. (The vast majority of troops claim the same) I was concerned that it seemed very dangerous to herd us like cattle and administer so many vaccines. I challenged it. With no information I requested to opt out, as far as I'm aware my Sgt requested if I was able to do so, the answer back down the chain of command was very clear, it was NOT optional It was a Direct Order, thus I stood in at the end of the queue and have suffered the consequences ever since!

Could you please forward a copy of DATA /Document which contained the information that I and others as you claim should have been briefed on in 90/91, The document which MOD sent out to units/medical units

Any other Data/Evidence that backs up MOD claim of ordering her Units to give Informed consent to its troops.”

On 6 January 2019 you wrote:

“The time between the administration of Live vaccines has increased over the years since 1990.

What lessons were learned from only having a few days/weeks between live vaccines such as Anthrax?

If this practise is not followed, is there an increased risk of autoimmune conditions?

If the practise is not followed, is there an increased risk of cancers?"

On 10 January 2019 you wrote:

"What percentage (%) of the vaccine regime (inc Anthrax) prepared troops that DID NOT DEPLOY INTO THEATRE (Saudi, Iraq, Kuwait) are suffering/have suffered Gulf War symptoms?"

Your enquiries are being treated as requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

It has been determined that significant effort is needed to identify and retrieve all information held by the MOD, that is required to answer all of your questions. Under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests where they relate to any extent, to the same or similar information. provided certain conditions are met. These are where the FOI requests:

- made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- made for the same or similar information; and
- received by the public authority within any period of 60 consecutive working days.

Under Section 12(4) of the FOI Act, provided these conditions are met, the MOD is permitted to regard the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them for the purpose of considering whether complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

The MOD is therefore applying exemption 12(4) to your FOIA requests of 25 October and 5 November. It has been estimated that the cost of complying with your requests aggregated under the Fees Regulations as explained above would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information within scope of your request if you reduce or refine it to bring the cost of compliance under the appropriate limit. Under Section 16 of the FOIA, Advice and Assistance, the MOD can advise that to provide the information you requested on 17 December and 10 January would require the retrieval and review of a large number medical records, something that could not be achieved within the appropriate limit.

A search can be conducted for any studies/research undertaken by the MOD and held centrally that might answer the questions you asked on 6 January. Similarly a search can be undertaken for anycentrally held MOD policy/guidance within the scope of your 2 January request.

If you would like to refine your requests or have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

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 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. 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,

Joint Medical Group Secretariat