



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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E-mail: People-Sec-FOIMailbox@mod.gov.uk

Ref: FOI2021/06426

Mr Ollie Booth
request-765745-1c409f8b@whatdotheyknow.com

21 June 2021

Dear Mr Booth,

Thank you for your email of 16 June 2021 requesting the following information:

"Please can you provide the following:

- 1. Do you have a disability staff network? If so: How long has it been running? The grade of the chair and deputy chair? Does the network use storytelling as part of its communication strategy?*
- 2. The number of members of staff who have provided information about their disability to HR broken down by Year since 2010 - Grade / Seniority – Location.*
- 3. Sickness absence as a result of disability or mental health issue logged by the department broken down by: - Year since 2010 - Grade / Seniority – Location.*
- 4. Return to work rates following disability or mental health related sickness logged by the department broken down by: - Year since 2010 - Grade / Seniority – Location.*
- 5. Costs (i.e. sick leave payments, salary loss, costs of replacements, adjustment costs, occupation health referrals etc) relating to disability and mental health related illness broken down by: - Year since 2010 - Grade / Seniority – Location."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Further clarification of your FOIA request is needed before it can proceed. Firstly, can you confirm whether your request is for information about Civil Servants, Armed Forces personnel or both? Secondly, can you explain what you mean by 'storytelling' in relation to the communications strategy of the disability network? Thirdly, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has several disability networks, some of which focus on specific disabilities. A full list can be found at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mod-diversity-networks#disability-networks>. I would be grateful if you could confirm which networks you are looking for information about. Once

you have sent this information to the MOD, we will have a better idea of how to proceed with your FOIA request. Please use the reference number at the top of this document for all further communication.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). 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 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,

Defence People Secretariat