



Ministry of Defence

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Our reference: FOI2016/09650

Mr Alvin Pritchard

request-365148-224ac39b@whatdotheyknow.com

7 November 2016

Dear Mr Pritchard,

Thank you for your request dated 15 October 2016 requesting the following information:

With regards to the long running Gulf Veterans' Medical Assessment Programme (GVMAP) please furnish the following information.

- 1. Please name all stations this assessment programme is reporting back to with their clinical findings.*
- 2. What measures have been taken to remedy the complaints stated by many veterans that their medical records regarding service on OP Granby have been deleted /gone missing from their medical service records, in particular with regards to the cocktail of experimental inoculations that they were ordered to take at the time ?*
- 3. Please confirm if there are any policy's in existence (apart from the GVMAP programme) that are designed to monitor the long term health issues of 1st Gulf veterans for the rest of their life's, if so, why has this been deemed to be necessary ?*

I am writing to confirm that we are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that the MOD holds some information in scope of your request.

The information to your first question is exempt under Section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means at the following address:
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20060130194436/http://www.mod.uk/issues/gulfwar/map/info_guide/section_4.htm

Turning to the second part of your request, no measures have been taken to remedy allegations that medical records regarding Operation Granby are incomplete. Information about medical records for Operation Granby is available at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20050328231439/http://mod.uk/issues/gulfwar/info/medical/records.htm>.

Finally, in answer to your third question about the monitoring of long term health issues of veterans of the first Gulf War, there are no policies in existence apart from the Veteran and Reserves Mental Health Programme (VRMHP) which is a successor to Gulf Veterans' Medical Assessment Programme (GVMAP).

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, you may wish to be aware that the Ministry of Defence Statistics publishes an annual Statistical Notice which provides summary statistics on the causes of deaths that occurred among the UK veterans of the 1990/91 Gulf Conflict since 1 April 1991. The latest report covering the period 1 April 1991 to 31 December 2015 was published on 31 March 2016 at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/517240/2016_0125-Gulf_March16_REVISED_O.pdf

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, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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 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