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of Defence

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Mr Owen Everett

REF: 20-11-2013-134732-001

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11 December 2013

Dear Mr Everett,

Thank you for your emails of 19 & 20 November 2013 requesting the following information:

- 1. As you are unable to say when Armed Forces visits to schools and colleges began, please can you tell me the year that your records on these visits go back to?*
- 2. I would also like to have a copy of any MoD documentation (statistics, evaluations etc) of the visits from that year.*
- 3. I would also like to know whether members of the Armed Forces visiting schools and colleges tend to be those who have recently finished basic training (i.e. those who have not deployed to a war zone)?*

This has been considered as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act).

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds some information within the scope of your request. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit. The primary reason for this is because the information is not held centrally, and neither is there any centrally issued guidance on retention of this type of information. In addition, the majority of Armed Forces Careers Offices only hold information covering the last three years.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. To locate, retrieve and extract information in scope of your request would exceed this limit.

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-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 CN47: Standard response template: Public Interest Test Time Extension 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>.

Defence Personnel Secretariat FOI