



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Ref: FOI2019/13115

Mr P Philpott
[request-622774-8529d5d8@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

13 December 2019

Dear Mr Philpott,

Thank you for your email of 22 November 2019 requesting the following information:

*"I refer to JSP - Honours and Awards in the Armed Forces and the policy stated in section 8A1.11; 8A1.11. Reduced Qualifying Service. If qualifying service is brought to an end before the completion of the specified qualifying period on account of death, wounding or other disability due to operational service, the reduced period of service will be sufficient qualification for the award of the OSM for service in Afghanistan.
With regard to this my question has three parts;*

- 1. What information would be accepted as evidence that a service person's qualifying service was prematurely brought to an end due to injury?*
- 2. In cases where the service person was prematurely removed from Afghanistan and no entry made on JPA, would documentation from a medical professional be accepted as evidence?*
- 3. Where in policy, if anywhere does it state that there must be a JPA entry for the person to qualify?."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm the information in scope of your request is held.

Your questions are answered below in the order that you asked them:

- 1. What information would be accepted as evidence that a service person's qualifying service was prematurely brought to an end due to injury?*

The MOD Medal Office (MODMO) will review and consider official MOD medical documentation relating to a Service person's time in theatre that led to the premature conclusion of deployment in an operational theatre attracting medallic recognition.

- 2. In cases where the service person was prematurely removed from Afghanistan and no entry made on JPA, would documentation from a medical professional be accepted as evidence?*

As above, MODMO will review and consider any official MOD medical documentation relating to a Service person's time in theatre that led to the premature conclusion of deployment in an operational theatre that attracts medallic recognition.

3. Where in policy, if anywhere does it state that there must be a JPA entry for the person to qualify?

There is no policy requirement for an entry on JPA, or its predecessor CHARITS, relating to a Service person as a casualty, to assess entitlement to an Operational or Campaign Service Medal. However, it is considered a useful indicator and having this available would provide evidence to MODMO to inform their assessment. Any official MOD medical or casualty documentation will be reviewed and considered to confirm a Service person was wounded or suffered from other disabilities whilst on operational deployment that led to the deployment ending prematurely. However, those Service personnel who were returned to unit for underlying/general medical issues or disciplinary reasons are not eligible under this policy.

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.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