



Ministry of Defence

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Ministry of Defence
Main Building (01/B/20)
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone [MOD]: +44 (0)20 7218 9000
E-mail: Dmc-
parliamentarybusiness@m
od.uk

Mr Donnie Mackenzie

request-131522-74ffd913@whatdotheyknow.com
request-132780-b353f2a3@whatdotheyknow.com

6 November 2012

Dear Mr Mackenzie

Thank you for your emails of 30 September and 10 October 2012. Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying. Your questions have been considered to be requests for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. You asked:

Can you tell me whether as part of Information Operations or any other type of operation in the UK, the MOD in any of its forms like the DTIO/TIO or related bodies makes requests upon any shows broadcast on British television to add to or in any way edit their content?

Can you tell me if there is a list of the different shows which have been contacted?

If you can, could you please disclose this list? If details are kept of compliance or non compliance with requests, could you please include this information also?

And:

Can you tell me whether as part of Information Operations or any other type of operation in the UK, the MOD in any of its forms like the DTIO/TIO or related bodies makes requests upon any shows broadcast on British radio to add to or in any way edit their content?

Can you tell me if there is a list of the different shows which have been contacted?

If you can, could you please disclose this list? If details are kept of compliance or non compliance with requests, could you please include this information also?

I can confirm that we hold information within scope of your request. It is the responsibility of all Government departments to explain policies and provide the media and UK public with factual information on the work of the department and, in the MOD's case, the Armed Forces. The Directorate Media and Communication (DMC) is responsible for dealing with the media in the UK. We are in daily contact with journalists, broadcasters and representatives of the media. This is a two-way exchange: broadcasters frequently contact us to check the accuracy of their information or, where appropriate, to check whether the information they report would or would be likely to prejudice personal or operational security, or data protection. In addition, broadcasters occasionally request help in preparing drama or documentary programmes in cases where they would like to film in MOD locations, interview MOD personnel or accurately portray aspects of defence or military life.

Due to the frequency of contacts with the media, in many cases by telephone, the MOD does not keep a comprehensive list. The MOD respects the editorial independence of the media.

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 Head of Corporate Information, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOxxxx@xxx.xx). 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

DMC Parliamentary Business

Ministry of Defence, Directorate Media and Communication