



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

E-mail: TOG-FOIandPQ@mod.gov.uk

Ref: FOI 2024/12705

Mr Gavin Roberts
request-1146358-8f306422@whatdotheyknow.com

24 July 2024

Dear Mr Gavin Roberts,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 July 2024 requesting the following information:

“Q1, Do your Ministers lose their right to free speech, when they become Ministers? If so please present the data

As elected MP's they are by the people for the people Q2, Does this change when they become Ministers.

Does protocol change from the priority being the people towards the state/establishment? If so how and when are MP'S made aware of this.”

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

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds no recorded information that would provide an answer to the questions you have asked in your request.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the Ministerial Code is a set of rules and principles which outlines the standards of conduct for government ministers in the UK. A copy of the Code can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ministerial-code>.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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 should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly 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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow,

Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Top Office Group