



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our Ref: FOI2021/10607

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Mr Jude Robinson

E-mail: request-792865-fbe6a2c0@whatdotheyknow.com

15 October 2021

Dear Mr Robinson

Thank you for your e-mail of 19 September requesting the following:

"I would like information pursuant to the corporate report "Review of the Defence Communication Directorate's response to Declassified UK" (published 7th December 2020

[https://qbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Freview-of-the-defence-communications-directorates-response-to-declassified-uk%2Freview-of-the-defence-communications-directorates-response-to-declassified-uk&data=04%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7Ca1362fdb0d464e985d2208d97b7dd137%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C1%7C637676602571583971%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=YUpErlsqySTXaxFDEtJ%2BbYhem8J9CO2qcYjxPDx6qQ%3D&reserved=0\)](https://qbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Freview-of-the-defence-communications-directorates-response-to-declassified-uk%2Freview-of-the-defence-communications-directorates-response-to-declassified-uk&data=04%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7Ca1362fdb0d464e985d2208d97b7dd137%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C1%7C637676602571583971%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&data=YUpErlsqySTXaxFDEtJ%2BbYhem8J9CO2qcYjxPDx6qQ%3D&reserved=0)

In said report, it is revealed that '[...] the Directorate was simultaneously providing both a "line to take" and background briefings to the Daily Telegraph, BBC and the Daily Mirror.'

I would like to know the following information:

1. the full detail of the specified "line to take":

- a. Who provided it.*
- b. Who received it.*
- c. In what format was it provided.*
- d. It's content.*

2. the nature and content of the background briefings, including:

- a. Who provided them.
- b. Who received them.
- c. In what format were they provided.
- d. Their content.

3. In both cases who (both inside and outside of the Defense Communication Directorate) was consulted or communicated with (in any capacity), in relation to the "line to take" and the briefings?

If some parts of this request are easier to answer than others, I would ask that you release the available data as soon as possible.

If you need any clarification, then please do not hesitate to contact me. Under Section 16 it is your duty to provide advice and assistance and so I would expect you to contact me if you find this request unmanageable in any way.

I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request, and I look forward to hearing from you within the 20-working day statutory time period.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information requested has been undertaken and I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information within the scope of your request.

The information held by the department is attached. Some of the information requested falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and has been withheld. Section 40(2) has been applied to the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

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, 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 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 www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

DDC Secretariat Parliamentary