



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Mr Ian Thomson
request-555222-
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WhatDoTheyKnow

24 April 2019

Dear Mr Thomson,

Thank you for your email of 22 February in which you requested the following information:

- 1. Number of Junior Rank Combat Medical Technician (CMT) Position ID's (PID's) by rank (private, lance corporal, corporal) within 254 Medical Regiment.*
- 2. Number of Junior Rank Combat Medical Technician (CMT) Position ID's (PID's) by rank (private, lance corporal, corporal) within 254 Medical Regiment which are currently filled as of 21 February 2019.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. Following my letter dated 25 Mar, the Department has considered this case further and it has been decided that this information is exempt under Section 26 1(b) (Defence), which exempts information that if disclosed would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces. This is a qualified exemption which requires a public interest test to establish the balance of releasing or withholding information. In this case, the arguments for release include the public interest in how Defence is run and the current manning levels of the Army. Arguments to withhold information include that internal organisational detail including the specific breakdown of a capability within a sub-unit is sensitive information useful to potential adversaries, as it exposes Army structures and capabilities in detail. It has been decided that on balance the information requested should be withheld as release would be likely to be prejudicial to capability, effectiveness and security of the unit in question.

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

Army Secretariat