

From: Paul Daly



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FOI2020/11563

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23 October 2020

Mr David Arbeely

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Dear Mr Arbeely,

Thank you for your emails of 21 September, 1, 15, 20 and 22 October 2020 requesting various information on the British Army.

Your correspondence is being treated as requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) states that a valid request "must be in writing; include the requester's name and an address for correspondence; and, describe the information requested".

The ICO guidance states that "*the intention of the legislation is for the requester to provide their real name*", and that "*the absence of a real name would make it technically invalid under Section 8(1)(b)*" of the FOIA. It should be noted, if an invalid request is processed by

a Public Authority, the requester would have no recourse to the ICO as their powers only extend to valid requests under section 8 of the Act.

In view of the above and, as previously stated, the MOD has reason to believe that your request may be invalid, and request you provide us with identification, in the form of a copy of your driving licence or passport.

Please note: Whatdotheyknow.com is a public facing website, therefore, you should provide your proof of identification via a private email address.

If you provide your identification as requested, we will be happy to take your requests forward.

More information on how to submit a valid request can be found at the link below:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1164/recognising-a-request-made-under-the-foia.pdf>

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,

Paul Daly
Assistant Head Information Rights team