

Ref: FOI2019/08027

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

E-mail: People-Sec-

FOIMailbox@mod.gov.uk

Mr Russell Banks request-588798-3b9f754b@whatdotheyknow.com

06 August 2019

Dear Mr Banks,

Thank you for your email of 11 July requesting the following information:

"I respectfully ask within this MoD FOI request the following to be confirmed:

- a. That both the current MoD Minister and the MoD continue today to support this Campaign `for RoA FOR FORMER BRITISH-HONG KONG SERVICEMEN.
- b. The former MoD Minister, on 31 Jan 2019 said that both he and the MoD were fully supporting these former Hong Kong Military Service Corps [HKMSC] soldiers (now Veterans) and the Hong Kong Royal Naval [HKRN] servicemen (now Veterans) in this matter and can you now say what action both the MoD Minister and the MoD has taken to support this matter since the 31 Jan 2019 and what has been the outcome of that action taken?
- c. If no action to support these British-Hong Kong veterans has been taken then please tell me what action now both the current MoD Minister and the MoD today will take."

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The Ministry of Defence (MOD) requires further information in order to determine whether it holds any information within the scope of your request. In particular, it would be useful if you could clearly define what type of recorded information you are requesting for each part of your request.

Please note that in accordance with Section 12 of the FOIA, the MOD is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit. This is currently set at £600 for central government. The Fees Regulations require that the costs are estimated at the rate of £25 per person per hour. The £600 appropriate limit relates to an official devoting around three and a half days (24 hours) of chargeable staff effort to a request. Once you have clarified your request, I will be pleased to consider it again. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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.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 normally 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.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat FOI.