



# Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
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Mr Bart Joseph  
Common Law Jurisdiction,  
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27 March 2017

Dear Mr Joseph,

I am responding to your email of 19 February 2017 requesting the following information:

- "1. Is it true that despite the EU exit vote that the UK army is being integrated in to the EU?*
- 2. Is the UK army going to effectively become part of the European Union army rather than an army for the people of this land?*
- 3. Please release all recorded data relating to the UK army; associating, assimilating, becoming part of, being handed over to, being integrated in to, or in any way being linked to a European army."*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. Copies are attached and you may be interested to see the two Parliamentary Questions we have answered on this topic [here](#).

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the creation of a European Army has never formally been proposed at EU level and, if it were, it would not receive unanimous support across the EU. The UK remains clear that we must not undermine Member States' competence for their own military forces, or create new institutions.

Some of the information you have requested includes personal data relating to third parties, the disclosure of which would contravene one of the data protection principles. In such circumstances sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. It is the fairness aspect of this principle, which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances, s.40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. There is, therefore, no public interest test to apply.

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.uk](mailto: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 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



**Euro-Atlantic  
Security Policy**

European Defence and Capabilities Team | Euro-Atlantic Security Policy, FCO, King Charles Street,

*EASP is the HMG Policy team for Euro-Atlantic Security Policy, incorporating Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Ministry of Defence expertise.*