





Ministry
of Defence



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DE&S Secretariat 

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FOI2019/09668

Dear Dr Briant,

Thank you for your email of 21 August 2019 which requested the following information:

Under the FOI Act I am writing please to request a copy of a final project report for a research and communication campaign in Ukraine to win back control of Donetsk undertaken by Strategic Communication Laboratories (SCL) - this may not be a UK campaign but the report was shared with the MoD. I would appreciate seeing the report as well as any associated communications and a list of any meetings about this specific project and related outcomes or proposals, as well as people involved please (period of interest - 2014-15).

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

It is occasionally necessary to extend the 20 working day time limit to consider the public interest of confirming or denying if information is held for the purposes of protecting the capability, effectiveness and security of the Armed Forces and to safeguard international relations. Sections 26(3) and 27(4) are qualified exemptions and the Ministry of Defence is considering whether the public interest in maintaining the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether or not the Department holds any information.

When a qualified exemption is engaged and a public interest test has to be conducted, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in relation to your request, we estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to make a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. We therefore plan to send a response by 17 October 2019. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion we will let you know.

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,

DE&S Secretariat