



Ministry of Defence

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

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) dated [REDACTED] in which you requested the following information on the new Regular Forces Long Service Medal:

- 1) When is it anticipated that the first medals will be issued - it was intimated on one web-site that 'early in 2016' but a later FOI request would suggest late 2016.
- 2) The current Naval Second Sea Lord is on record saying that the medal would not be retrospective. Having broached this subject with a previous Second Sea Lord, it appears the rationale was that former officers of the armed forces that qualified by time would be able to purchase the medal. I have submitted a detailed paper via the Royal Naval Honours and Awards secretariat mitigating / justifying some length of retrospective award criteria and wondered if the information within this paper has been considered at a higher level (apparently the paper was submitted to MoD)
- 3) Has the design of the medal been established. I ask this as again, previous papers submitted by myself in the past recommending acknowledgement of service by officers contained designs that I had put forward and that were forwarded to MoD when this medal was announced.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds this information. The information is exempt under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. It is already in the public domain at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-25-april-2016>

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, 1st 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 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