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# Direct Telephone Line 020 7211 8165

*GTN 211 8165*

*Web site* [*OME GOV.UK*](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-manpower-economics)

*Email: Steven.Mokogwu@bis.gsi.gov.uk*

Dear 25 May 2016

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ref/AFPRB/05-16/Gib01**

Thank you for your email dated 2 May 2016 requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. ***“In 2011 the Gibraltar government and the MOD signed a lands agreement which meant the MOD gave back many lands to the Gibraltar government. Stating these were no longer needed. But they were needed and under the lands agreement land was only meant to be given back if it was not needed any more, they housed all of the Gibraltar regiment and they have now been left homeless. I need to see the agreement that was signed between the Gibraltar government and the MOD in 2011 to cause the soldiers to lose this land.”***
2. ***“I also need to see the documents which caused the Gibraltar Regiments change in contract from being housed to not being housed. This was in 2012 the men were given 6 months’ notice. Also I’d like a copy of the Gibraltar regiments contract with the MOD from 2007 and the new one in 2012”***
3. ***“I would also like to see the Armed forces covenant as I believe the MOD have broken this.”***
4. ***“I would also like to see the Document the Gibraltar regiment created where they outlined all of the troubles the Gibraltar regiment were going through and requested help as this was subsequently denied”.***
5. ***“I would also like to know how the armed forces pay review can state they have visited Gibraltar in their reviews but never discuss Gibraltar or this situation as the soldiers are clearly not paid enough for the situation they are in. They are living [in] poverty barely able to support their families.”***
6. ***“They don’t get UK pensions, or benefits which all other soldiers get to top up their low wages with families such as working tax credits. They have no access to charity help which UK soldiers do, they do not get help to buy schemes, or help with furniture etc, their regiment has little welfare budget, they do not get housed, and the cost of living and rental is extremely high. Has the armed forces pay review been informed of all of this when they visit you? How can they not mention Gibraltar regiment in their pay reviews and state that this pay is appropriate for their soldiers. I will be making a formal complaint against them for all of this and I would like to know how to go about this.”***

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

* know whether we hold the information you require;
* be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

The Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) does not hold the information you have asked for in sections one, two and four of your request. Due to the nature of the information you are seeking, your request may be more appropriately addressed to the MOD. The email address for MOD Freedom of Information requests is cio-foi@mod.uk

Information on the Armed Forces Covenant is available on GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-covenant-supporting-information>

In respect of the last two parts of your request, the AFPRB visits a number of sites each year as part of its process of gathering evidence. These allow Review Body members to meet with Service personnel and their families both to receive feedback on recent recommendations and to discuss the nature of life in the Armed Forces. Depending on their nature, issues raised on visits are fed back to MOD or local management or shared with the rest of the Review Body and form part of the contextual background to AFPRB’s recommendations in a particular year. Specific issues raised on visits will not necessarily be mentioned in the main report.

You ask about how you can complain. To the extent that your complaint is about the decisions reached by the Review Body, it is for the Chair to comment. We have made him aware of your concerns and you can expect a letter from him. To the extent that your are questioning the effectiveness of the Review Body as a mechanism for representing the concerns of Service personnel in MOD decision making, as AFPRB is an MOD advisory body you should write to MOD. The best contact point there in the first instance would be:

Defence People Secretariat

Level 6, Zone K

MOD Main Building

Horseguards Avenue

Whitehall

London, SW1A 2HB

Email: People-Sec-ParliMailbox@mod.uk

**Appeals Procedure**

If you are unhappy with the way the Office of Manpower Economicshas handled your request you may ask for an internal review. You should contact me at the Office of Manpower Economicsif you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

           Information Commissioner’s Office

            Wycliffe House

            Water Lane

            Wilmslow

            Cheshire

            SK9 5AF

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Yours sincerely,



Steven Mokogwu

FOI Officer

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