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Mr Andreas Speck
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Our Reference:
17-08-2007-161349-004 Speck

Date: 17 September 2007

Dear Mr Speck,

Release of Information

Your correspondence dated 17th August has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

“We request the disclosure of regulations governing the right to conscientious objection for the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. We are aware of Instruction No-6 for the Army (Retirement or discharge on the grounds of conscience), but do not have a copy of these instructions.

We request:

- *the present instructions for the Army, including all annexes*
- *the present instructions for the Navy, including all annexes*
- *the present instructions for the Air Force, including all annexes.*

In addition, we request information on the number of applications for the three forces since 2000, and how many were successful, or turned down. ”

Each of the Services has their own procedures for discharge on the grounds of conscientious objection. These are the same for all Service personnel irrespective of their rank.

I have attached a copy of the procedures for each Service together with the Ministry of Defence Policy on Conscientious Objectors.

The information attached is as follows:

- The Ministry of Defence Policy on Conscientious Objectors
- The Army procedures regarding Application for Discharge on Grounds of Conscientious Objection
- The Royal Navy procedures regarding Application for Discharge on Grounds of Conscientious Objection
- The RAF procedures regarding Application for Discharge on Grounds of Conscientious Objection.

With regard to the second part of your request, I can confirm that six individuals (3 RAF personnel, 3 Navy personnel) have applied for discharge on the grounds of conscientious objection since 2000. Of these cases, five were successful (3 RAF personnel, 2 Navy personnel).

I hope this information is useful.

If you are unhappy 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 Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail Info-XD@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 unhappy 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 the case until the 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.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

David Bruce

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