



Ministry  
of Defence

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

Ref: FOI2023/11650

E-mail: DST-Secretariat@mod.uk

23 Oct 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email sent on the 25 September requesting the following information:

*"I would like to request information regarding applications pertaining to research studies using wargaming involving human subjects submitted to the Ministry of Defence Research and Evaluation Committee (MODREC) over the past five years.*

*I would appreciate your assistance in providing the following information:*

*Request 1. The total number of applications received by MODREC for research using wargaming techniques or methods during each of the previous five years, with a year-wise breakdown.*

*Request 2. For each of the past five years, the number of applications approved and awarded funding for wargaming research studies, with a year-wise breakdown.*

*Request 3. For each of the past five years, the number of applications declined or rejected concerning wargaming research studies, with a year-wise breakdown.*

*Request 4. Any pertinent documents, reports, or correspondences associated with the evaluation process and decision-making for the aforementioned applications."*

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. See below:

**Request 1 – Search conducted. One application was found from 2021 (Application 2038/MODREC/21 - see Annex A and B).**

**Request 2 – Search conducted. One application was approved and awarded funding for wargaming research studies, in 2021 (Application 2038/MODREC/21).**

**Request 3 – Search conducted. No applications were declined or rejected over those years.**

**Request 4 – See Annex A and B for details related to application 2038/MODREC/21.**

The information you have requested can be found at Annex A and Annex B, which relates to a single wargaming study that was identified from searches (application 2038/MODREC/21). The vast majority of content contained within Annex A does not relate to application 2038/MODREC/21, hence it falls out of scope of the request (FOI2023-11650) and has been redacted. In addition, some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at sections 40 (Personal Information), and qualified exemptions provided for at sections 22A (Research) of the FOIA and have been redacted.

The following FOIA Exemptions have been applied to some of the information in scope of your request, resulting in this information being redacted.

Section 40 (Personal Data) of the Act has been applied. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information. The information constitutes personal data and disclosure of the information would contravene data protection principles.

Section 22A (Research) of the FOIA has been applied, as disclosure of the information under this Act before the date of publication would, or would be likely to, prejudice the programme, individuals and the interests of certain authorities.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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 normally 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,

DST Secretariat



106<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MoD Research Ethics Committee (MODREC)  
Held remotely due to COVID-19  
on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

**Duration of Meeting:**  
Commenced at 09:00 hrs  
Closed at 16:30 hrs





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Application 2038/MODREC/21:

09:30 The Committee reviewed the first application of the day.

**Title of Application:** An observational study of diversity [redacted] and wargames.  
**Chief Investigator (CI):** Dr [redacted]  
**Other Investigators:** [redacted]  
**Investigator(s) dialled in:** [redacted]  
**Application received:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021.  
**Application validated:** 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021.  
**Review Chairman:** [redacted]

The following points were discussed by the Committee prior to the researcher being invited to join the meeting, and subsequently with the researcher (*italics*):

a. The Committee asked the investigators to describe the wargame.

*The researcher stated that wargames required* [redacted]

b. The Committee asked if 'representing your country' in the wargame could cause anxiety for some participants.

[redacted]

c. The Committee asked how many players and teams would be involved simultaneously.

*The researcher stated that there would be a maximum of* [redacted]

d. The Committee asked if the different teams would play against each other.

*The researcher stated that it would* [redacted]

e. The Committee asked how many researchers would be present in the wargaming room.

*The researcher stated that there would be around six researchers present (one facilitator, three observers and two Dstl observers).*

f. The Committee asked why there was a lower age limit of [redacted] years old.

*The researcher stated that they would prefer participants to have a world view / experience that extended beyond academic studies.*

g. The Committee asked how many breaks and refreshments would be built into the day.

*The researcher stated that there would be [REDACTED], with opportunities to rest after each round.*

h. The Committee asked if participants will be paid and be provided with a meal.

*The researcher stated that travel and subsistence costs and meals will be provided for participants that travelled to the event.*

i. The Committee asked how the exclusion criteria of [REDACTED] would be identified.

*The researcher stated that participants would complete a screening form in advance of the study.*

■ The Committee asked if the researchers had considered exploring the [REDACTED]

*The researcher stated that they had and that this might influence some decisions taken during the wargame.*

k. The Committee asked what the study data would look like.

*The researcher stated that the data would be a combination of [REDACTED]*

l. The Committee asked how the data would be analysed.

*The researcher stated that [REDACTED] analysis would be performed, with the differences between the study groups being based around [REDACTED].*

■ The Committee asked if the data collection would be performed only at [REDACTED]

*The researcher stated that it was and it would also be conducted at the wargaming centre.*

**Discussion time:** 1 hr 30 mins

**Decision:** The Committee agreed to give a provisional favourable opinion for Application 2038/MODREC/21 subject to [REDACTED] confirming the Investigator has satisfactorily addressed the points identified in the Actions for Researchers below ex-Committee.

**Actions for Researchers:** The researchers are to reply to the MODREC Secretariat providing a covering letter and a revised application using 'tracked changes' to identify changes:

These were:



1. Please make the following changes to the application form:
  - a. Add a description of the wargame (alternatively add the wargame protocol as an appendix).
  - b. Section 2: Ensure the date and version number are updated.
  - c. Section 14b:
    - i. In the wargamers exclusion criteria it is not clear what is meant by "[REDACTED]". Please expand.
    - ii. Provide a copy of the [REDACTED] screening form.
  - d. Section 15b / 15c / 16a: When participants are sent the PIS they should also be sent the consent form.
  - e. Section 15c: Add statement about a 24-hour period to consider the information.
2. Please make the following changes to the Participant Information Sheet (PIS):
  - a. The exclusion criteria should be explicitly stated in the PIS and the recruitment email.
  - b. What will I be asked to do?: Explicitly state if data will be collected on [REDACTED] consecutive days (or not).
  - c. Are there any direct benefits to me of taking part?: State there are no direct benefits.
  - d. Will I receive any expenses or payments?: Be more explicit on the method of payment and articulate the [REDACTED] payment policy.
  - e. Will my records be kept confidential?: Participants will not understand terms 'CI' or 'Technical Partner', consider changing.
3. Please make the following changes Annex 2:
  - a. Be more explicit, detailing the participants that you wish to participate in the study.
  - b. State how many days the study will involve.
4. Annex 3: Consider if the [REDACTED] support services could be a point of contact.

5. Annex 7: Have the [REDACTED] been informed of the recent changes that have been made to the participant exclusion criteria (i.e. [REDACTED])?
6. Please conduct a thorough spelling and grammar check of all documents. Ensure all acronyms are defined in-full on the first time of use and that all tables/figures are labelled correctly.
7. Please ensure that confirmation is provided from your Data Protection Advisor that the data arrangements are in accordance with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 (for research specific guidance see <https://www.hra.nhs.uk/hra-guidance-general-data-protection-regulation>). In particular, ensure that participants are informed as to their data protection rights and what will happen to their personal data.

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**MODREC Secretariat  
Defence Science and Technology**

Dstl Portsmouth West, Fareham, PO17 6AD  
Telephone: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [DST-MODRECTeam@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DST-MODRECTeam@mod.gov.uk)

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Our Reference: 2038/MODREC/21

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED],

**Wargames and [REDACTED] Why and How does [REDACTED]?**

Thank you for submitting your revised application (2038/MODREC/21) with tracked changes and the covering letter with detailed responses to the MODREC letter. I can confirm that the revised protocol has been given favourable opinion ex-Committee.

This favourable opinion is valid for the duration of the research and is conditional upon adherence to the protocol – please inform the Secretariat if any amendment becomes necessary.

Please note that under the terms of JSP 536 you are required to notify the Secretariat of the commencement date of the research, and submit annual and final/termination reports to the Secretariat on completion of the research.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED] MODREC Chair