

Section 6 Disclosure of Information**6.1 Principles governing disclosure of information**

This section describes the principles governing the public disclosure of information by serving or former members of the Department and sets out the rules that apply those principles to specific cases. The activities governed by this section are:

- public lectures and speeches, interviews with or communications to the press or other media, film, radio and television appearances and statements to non-Governmental bodies, including MOD-sponsored conferences and seminars;
- books, monographs, articles, letters or other text, including supposed fiction;
- theses for degrees, diplomas or MOD-sponsored fellowships;
- participation in outside study conferences, seminars and discussions.

You must not make comment on, or make disclosure of

- classified or "in confidence" information,
- relations between civil servants and Ministers, and advice given to Ministers,
- politically controversial issues;
- material covered by copyright, unless prior permission has been obtained. Particular care must be taken where the origin of the material is obscure,
- information that would conflict with MOD interests or bring the Civil Service into disrepute,
- information that may jeopardise the commercial interests of the MOD or companies or organisations collaborating with the MOD;
- information that would undermine the security or other national interests of collaborating countries,
- anything that the MOD would regard as objectionable about individuals or organisations;

You must not publish or broadcast personal memoirs reflecting your experience as a Government official, or enter into commitments to do so, while in Crown employment.

6.2 Greater openness in Government requires:

- the fullest possible exposition to Parliament and the public of the reasons for Government policies and decisions once these have been announced; and