

Prospect Defence Briefing

Colleagues

A number of staff have raised issues with me around the Sector, so I thought it would be worth making sure everyone understood the complexities, particularly around security. Some of the other issues read across into aviation and nuclear (and possibly other sectors), so we thought it worth circulating. For the purposes of this note, we've used the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as the employer, but this could easily be a private sector defence company or arm's length body.

"We're trying to do public coms around the work our members do but the MoD reps don't seem interested."

Due to the national security implications involved, MoD staff have to be careful about what they put into the public domain about their activities and identities; engage with the senior MoD reps and they can work with you to genericise examples and get MoD security support to ensure public disclosures don't compromise national security or put our members at risk.

"I'm holding a Teams meeting and the MoD reps won't put on their cameras"

Many MOD staff are either instructed not to use the camera on their computer, or have the function disabled completely, for security reasons.

"The training course I'm running is on Zoom and MoD reps are saying they can't attend"

The MoD does not allow access to Zoom and MoD reps would need to access from a personal machine which they can only do 'off site'.

"We're looking to do some work involving international travel, but the MoD reps aren't interested or are saying they need to travel via different routes."

For national security reasons there are controls on the international travel of MoD staff, the rules generally won't prevent things but do mean more advance notice and planning can be necessary. Depending on clearances, some MOD staff may be unable to travel to certain countries at all.

"MoD members aren't providing us with their job titles as part of their membership information."

MoD staff are instructed to limit the amount of information out there about what they do, this means members may be overly cautious with what they put on their membership form.

Engage with senior MoD reps and they can speak with members to establish what information Prospect needs and can be appropriately shared.

“We want to provide tech goodies to members but the MoD reps aren’t interested.”

A number of our MoD members work in secure environments where controls exist on tech devices, as such they won’t always be able to take such goodies to member events.

“I’m trying to contact a MoD rep/member about something and they only respond at odd hours.”

A number of MoD reps work in secure environments where they cannot have their personal phone on them, if you need to communicate with them during regular working hours ensure you have their work contact details. In other circumstances the rep/member may be based abroad so may be operating in a different time zone.

“We’re trying to organise an in-person event but MoD members or reps seem disinterested in attending.”

MoD has a very geographically dispersed workforce, both within the UK and around the world, as such members are not always able to attend events in-person.

“I’m supporting a rep/member in relation to something and they say they can’t email all the necessary business information to me.”

Some MoD data has limited shareability for national security reasons, this shouldn’t inhibit support to our members but at times it means we need to involve either senior lay reps or representatives of the business to get the data in a format where it can safely sit on a Prospect server. In situations involving especially sensitive matters Prospect staff with security clearance may need to be involved and go onto MoD sites to view data.

“I’m having trouble organising a number of MoD reps via email, I keep missing replies for some reason.”

The MoD has restrictions on staff sending emails to non-approved email domains alongside multiple MoD addresses. The prospect.org.uk email domain is on the approved list so ensure you’re always using that domain when communicating with members, reps and the MoD business side.

If you’ve any queries on the above information, please don’t hesitate to contact [Bob King](#), National Secretary

www.prospect.org.uk/defence