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Ref: FOI2020/04929/10/05

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Paul Ashby
Email: request-660572-0a672fbb@whatdotheyknow.com

07 July 2020

Dear Mr Ashby,

Thank you for your email of 27 April in which you requested the following information:

“Please advise who is responsible for the operation of the above system [the Westminster system], also please state who designed and specified the system.

What resilience is built into the system and whether it is able to be used on a computer running any operating system.

Also please advise what operating system this application is hosted on”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

On 13th May 2020 I wrote to you to advise that the MOD holds information related to your request, but that we considered that some of the information may fall within the scope of the following qualified exemption: s.26 Defence. As such it was necessary for us to decide whether, in the circumstances of this case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. These considerations are now complete, and I can advise that the balance of public interest was found in favour of withholding some of the information in scope of your request. This is because our operational capability may be jeopardised if it were placed in the public domain. Information relating to resilience built into the system and operating system that the application is hosted on is therefore being withheld.

In response to first part of your request, please note that the Westminster application is an Army application that is managed by HQ Regional Command, Cadets Branch and Army Digital (formally IAS). The Marine Society and Sea Cadets are also a stakeholder in the project and work closely with Cadets Branch in HQ Regional Command. The system was designed by the Sea Cadets and Army Cadets in 2005 as part of union project between the Cadet Forces.

In response to the second part of your request, the Westminster is accessible via a web-browser as this is an internet facing application.

Under s.16 (Advice and Assistance), you should note that although we are unable to release detail, the IT system has appropriate security processes in place to protect the information it contains.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, if you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content

of this response, you can request 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). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly 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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

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