



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
Secretariat
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Ministry of Defence
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Email: DES SEC-PolSec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.uk

Mr D Leftwich

Email: request-932171-
ea4ee068@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference:
FOI2023/00002
Date:
4 April 2023

Dear Mr Leftwich,

Thank you for your email of 2 January 2022, requesting the following information:

Since 2013, you have kindly supplied comprehensive listings of items (vehicles and equipment) disposed by the MoD in a yearly summary.

Could you please supply a similar listing for 2022, again with the following details:

**NATO Stock Number
ERM or serial number
Material Asset Code
Item Description
Chassis Number/VIN
Contract Number
Date In Service
Asset Code State
Asset Code State Date (ie Disposal Date)**

Could you also advise as to where the item was disposed, if this is possible?

Your request has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

A search has been carried out of the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) Joint Asset Management and Engineering Solutions (JAMES) system. Information that falls within the scope of your request is provided as follows:

Annex A – Items disposed in 2022

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, I can advise you that not all the requested information is available on the JAMES System and this explains why there are some gaps in the data provided; for example, the contract reference number or chassis number.

It has also proved necessary to withhold some information relating to your request. This is several lines in the attached spreadsheet relating to vehicle information which has been redacted under qualified exemptions Section 26(1)(a) and (b) (Defence) and Section 38(1)(a) and (b) (Health and Safety) of the FOI Act.

Defence Equipment & Support

Section 26 applies to information that if disclosed would or would likely; prejudice the defence of the British Islands or any colony; and/or the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces of the Crown or any forces cooperating with them. Section 38 applies to information that if disclosed would or would likely; endanger the physical or mental health of any individual; or endanger the safety of any individual.

As these exemptions are qualified, it was necessary to undertake a Public Interest Test to determine whether the balance for withholding the information outweighs that for disclosure. General arguments in favour of release were that full disclosure would demonstrate the MOD's commitment to openness and transparency; and make the UK Government more accountable to the electorate. The FOI Act also contains a presumption for release.

However, releasing the details of these vehicles would divulge information that could be used to compromise the ability of UK Armed Forces to carry out operations safely. Namely, by revealing information about vehicle modifications and details of vehicles attached to sensitive units which could assist adversaries to plan attacks against equipment and endanger the lives of personnel, and by identifying the sorts of vehicles used by multiple different sensitive units, allowing adversaries to adapt their tactics against these vehicles accordingly.

Given the arguments described above, on balance, it was determined that the information should be withheld. The level of prejudice against release of this exempted information has been set at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act I would like to make you aware that this request has been particularly burdensome this year given the number of disposed vehicles in year. Complying with your request has taken a considerable amount of effort from several of our officials to locate, extract, consider and prepare for release the information for you. If you were to make a request of similar magnitude next year, we may not be able to provide the information under Section 14 of the FOI Act (Burden). I recognise that you have no way to ascertain how burdensome the task may be for any given year. However, were you to make this request quarterly, I believe this would significantly increase the likelihood that we would be able to respond to future requests without triggering Section 14 of the FOI Act.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. 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.gov.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,

DE&S Secretariat