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Ref: FOI2019/1714/18/3

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Mr Martin Drew

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8 March 2019

Dear Mr Drew

Thank you for your email of 8 February 2019 in which you requested the following information:

"How many rounds of ammunition below 0.50 or 12.7mm caliber does the UK armed forces use per year ? (IE small arms ammunition) by year since 2014

If possible

1/ By caliber

2/ Whether on training or live usage"

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

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested¹. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because the data relating to the amount of ammunition used on operations is not held centrally and would take over six working days to locate, retrieve and extract.

Section 12(1) of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. You could ask for information relating to the amount of ammunition used solely in training. You could also for information relating to the amount of ammunition issued for use on operations. However, it is possible that this information might fall within the scope of qualified exemptions of the FOI Act, particularly Section 26 (Defence). If this is the case, it will be necessary to undertake a Public Interest Test to consider whether the information can be provided.

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,

Army Secretariat