



Ministry of Defence

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Our Reference:
FOI 2016/07747

Mr Darryl J Lee
[request-350736-](#)
[c64fb873@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

6 September 2016

Dear Mr Lee,

Thank you for email dated 10th August 2016 requesting the following information:

"The proposal to "merge" The Civil Nuclear Constabulary ("CNC") and The Ministry of Defence Police ("MDP") and British Transport Police ("BTP") to create a new Police Force (Or two Forces) to be financed by The Home Office rather than the respective industries or "customers", potentially also incorporating UK Border Agency and even Highways England [civilian / non-police] Traffic Officers is well advanced;- Please confirm that you hold recorded information on the proposed merger / formation of a National Infrastructure Constabulary (whether armed or otherwise) and that such information can be disclosed pursuant to The Freedom of Information Act and subsequently please disclose the information dating from 2015 and/or 2016 that you hold (subject to redaction where the presence of personal data requires) which relates to the potential merger of the CNC; MDP and BTP."

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

Whilst I note that your request was directed to the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) and the Ministry of Defence separately I should explain that the MDP are a department within MOD, and any request to them is handled as a request to MOD as a whole and answered as one response to both requests.

I am writing to confirm that the MOD holds the information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise that as you have been unable to specify which data you are specifically seeking, in order to determine what information is held by the authority would exceed the cost threshold and we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit.

This is because to retrieve all the information you have requested would involve searching either manually and electronically in various places across the MOD and MDP, and any written or received information by approximately 2741 (plus MOD) employees. We estimate this would take about 1 hour for each employee to search for the information in scope of your request, and in excess of a total of 2741 (plus MOD) hours.

Section 12 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. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so. Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600. Similarly, if you do decide to submit a refined request for information please note that other exemptions in the FOI Act may apply.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Security & Resilience