



# Ministry of Defence

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Catherine Reardon

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Ref. FOI 2020/09339

26 October 2020

Dear Mrs Reardon,

Your correspondence dated 19 August 2020 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

*“Can you please advise of all costs associated with the repair/replacements to site/buildings/equipment due to proven vandalism within the Ash Ranges Danger Area between the months of January to December 2018 and January to December 2019.*

*For clarification purposes, where possible the costs should be split such that they reflect the costs appertaining to the distinctly separate areas within the Range Danger Area (RDA), as defined recently by the DIO the area within the RDA which encompasses the Ash firing ranges is termed as 'The Range Complex' and the remaining area of the RDA is termed 'The wider RDA'.*

*Should it not be possible to separate these costs then please provide costs for the total Ash Ranges RDA for both time periods requested”.*

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request may be held.

However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate and extract the information in scope of your request would involve at least some 11 days of effort.

Section 12 of the FOIA 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, for example, expenditure incurred as a result of vandalism on Ash Ranges for a single month between January 2015 and August 2020, to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request and the MOD will consider your request in line with the FOIA, please bear in mind that further exemptions may still apply.

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.uk](mailto: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,

DIO Secretariat