

Mr Carl Cookson

request-687687-79ff6365@whatdotheyknow.com

22 October 2020

Ref: FOI 2020/09634

Dear Mr Cookson,

Thank you for your email of 26 August 2020 requesting the following information:

"I am writing to request detail on the effects of vandalism on Ash Ranges between January 2015 and August 2020. The costs are summarised in a statement made to the Guildford Dragon as being £170000. I would like to see a list of the individual items making up this figure, the dates when the transactions were made, a description of the activity and the contractor used if applicable".

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

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.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,

DIO Secretariat