





Ministry
of Defence



Tyler Binge
request-466964-caa40555@whatdotheyknow.com

DE&S Secretariat 

DESSEC-FOI@mod.uk 

Defence Equipment & Support
Maple 0A, #2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



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FOI2018/02850

Dear Mr Binge,

Thank you for your email of 23rd March 2018, which asked for:

*I would like to make a freedom of information request for any information including the following:
(JAMES Maintenance Record) and the MERLIN report held relation to ex MOD vehicles with the following VRN/registrations:*

25KK65	31KK96	25KK76	25KK77
25KK78	25KK81	25KK83	25KK84
25KK86	25KK87	25KK89	

I am treating your email as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds some information relevant to your request. However following the closure of MERLIN it is only possible to retrieve information held on the archived version of the database, which is attached for vehicle registrations 25KK65, 31KK96, 25KK77, 25KK76, 25KK83, 25KK86, 25KK89.

In addition, I have to advise you that the remainder of the information you have requested falls entirely within scope of Section 26(1)(b) of the FOI Act (defence). Section 26 is a qualified exemption, which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 26(1)(b) of the FOI Act provides that information is exempt if its disclosure is likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness, or security of any relevant forces. A public interest test concluded that, as some of the vehicles to which you refer are still active, the information you have requested should be withheld on the grounds that disclosure would be likely to impact on ongoing operations by allowing enemies to draw conclusions about Armed Forces capabilities. Aside from the seven MERLIN reports provided, this is the case for the other vehicle registration numbers you have quoted, therefore the JAMES maintenance records you have requested have been withheld.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied 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 on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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,

DE&S Secretariat