



# Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
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Ref: FOI2016/11828

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Mr Iain Overton  
[request-375224-87d2971c@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

05 January 2016

Dear Mr Iain Overton

Thank you for your email of 4 December requesting the following information:

*Please can you tell me for two 5 month periods (23 Jan 2015 - 22 June 2016 and 23 June 2016 - 22 Nov 2016):*

- 1. How many Freedom of Information requests your department received.*
- 2. How many of these FOI requests were responded to with a formed answer (this does not include confirmation of receipt answers).*
- 3. How many of these answered FOI responses gave details as requested.*
- 4. How many of these answered FOI responses were refused (for whatever reason - cost, outside the scope of FOI etc. etc.)*

*Have you have received any internal messaging relating to anything that might be considered a 'go slow' approach to FOIs, or any other memos that would suggest that there has been orders not to answer questions relating to Brexit issues.*

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, and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 21 (Information reasonably accessible) and section 44 (prohibitions on disclosure) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 21 has been applied to some of the information as it is information that is reasonably accessible to the public. The information for requests received between January and September 2016 can be found at this link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-foi-statistics#2016>. Section 21 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

For statistics from September onwards, we are not obliged to provide information if there are prohibitions on disclosure 'by any other enactment' under Section 44(1)(a) of the FOIA. In the case of FOI statistics, the information you are seeking is prohibited by the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 and the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public

interest in making a decision to withhold the information. FOI statistics are routinely published at the link provided to you above and will include the September onwards statistics in due course.

With regards to *'any internal messaging relating to anything that might be considered a 'go slow' approach to FOIs'*, the MOD holds no information.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, 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 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 normally 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,

Information Rights Team

Ministry of Defence