



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
Secretariat
#2043 Maple 0a
Ministry of Defence
Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



Email: DES SEC-PolSec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.uk

Mr MatthewTaylor

email: [request-733560-
e9d1a54d@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-733560-e9d1a54d@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our Reference:
FOI2021/02495
Date:
9 March 2021

Dear Mr Taylor,

I am writing about your email of 4 March 2021, requesting the following information:

I have recently purchased an ex-military TRUCK UTY MED (HD) 6X6 PPV (PINZGAUER) VECTOR. I have checked the released MERLIN database and the vehicle service history is not contained in the available published MERLIN extract (the vehicle as having only recently come out of service). Therefore I submit a FOI request for the following information:

- 1) Vehicle military service history (Units served etc, as contained in MERLIN)*
- 2) Any Maintenance Records / Work objects related to this vehicle.*

*Vehicle Registration: GG53AB
Description: TRUCK UTY MED (HD) 6X6 PPV VECTOR
DIS: 06/11/2007
VIN number: SFF71836620007195*

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 is held. This is attached, as follows:

Annex A - Ownership History
Annex B - Fault History (redacted)
Annex C - Inspection History
Annex D - Modification History (redacted)
Annex E - Service History

It has proved necessary to withhold information related to your request. This is commercially sensitive information in the Fault History (Annex B) and Modification History (Annex D), relating to contractor repair times, and has been withheld under qualified exemption Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests).

Section 43 concerns information which if disclosed would or would likely prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including defence contractors and the public authority holding it).

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As the exemption is qualified, it was necessary to undertake a Public Interest Test to determine whether the balance for withholding the information outweighs that for disclosure. General arguments in favour of release were that full disclosure would demonstrate the MOD's commitment to openness and transparency; and make the UK Government more accountable to the electorate. The FOI Act also contains a presumption for release. However, reporting the time taken by MOD contractors to rectify fault and modification reports could be used, along with already published contractor information, to reveal market sensitive information, such as hourly labour rates, that would likely allow the company's competitors to exploit when bidding for similar work.

Given the arguments described above, on balance, it was determined that the information should be withheld under Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests). The level of prejudice against release of this exempted information has been set at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

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,

DE&S Policy Secretariat Asst Hd