



Ministry
of Defence

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Ms Susan Gordon

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Our Reference:
FOI2020/10174/
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Date:
1 October 2020

Dear Ms Gordon,

Thank you for your three emails of 10 September 2020 requesting the following information for the British Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force respectively:

"How much did you spend on toilet roll in between 2014-2019 broken down by year?"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and am replying to all three requests in this one letter.

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds some information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your requests without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve, extract information in scope of your requests from every unit/establishment would involve in excess of seventeen weeks of effort.

Section 12 of the Act 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 requests if you reduce or refine your requests to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. However, it would be difficult to suggest a refinement of the requests in this instance as there are many units and establishments world-wide that would need to be contacted. This would include trawling

through thousands of monthly transaction logs to locate the information, which is not centrally held.

Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

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 Secretariat