

Ref: 2022/00216

Mr James Page
request-820315-d68d3d9f@whatdotheyknow.com

2 February 2022

Dear Mr James Page

Thank you for your e-mail of the 6 January 2022 requesting the following information:

Please provide all available information and documentation on 'VESTIS' which is the RAF Future Clothing Program.

In particular what considerations and designs are being considered and when will a final decision be made?

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 information in scope of your request is held.

This letter is to inform you that the Ministry of Defence holds information relating to your request, but we believe some information falls within scope of the qualified exemption: Section 35 (Formulation of Policy). As such, it is necessary for us to decide whether in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The FOIA requires us to respond to requests promptly and in any case, no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information and the public interest test has to be conducted, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in relation to your request, we estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to take a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. We therefore plan to let you have a response by 2 March 2022. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will inform you.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 { [HYPERLINK "mailto: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 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 { HYPERLINK "https://ico.org.uk/" }

Yours sincerely

[Original signed]

Air Command Secretariat