



Ministry
of Defence



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WhatDoTheyKnow

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Our Reference: FOI2018/10622
FOI2018/10623
FOI2018/10624
FOI2018/10625

Date: 15 August 2018

Dear Mr Lepoutre,

Your emails dated 15 August 2018 are considered to be a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. You requested information for the following vehicle(s):

serial: SALLDHAC8BA263677
VRN: 22GJ45
VRN: EK89AA
VRN: DB77AB

A search across the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been completed and I can confirm that some information relevant to your request is held. However, I regret that some of the information falls within the scope of qualified exemptions and are subject to a public interest test. This means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Under section 26(1) of the FOI Act, information is exempt if it is likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness, or security of the Armed Forces. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information for DB77AB on the grounds that disclosure would likely impact on ongoing operations by allowing enemies to draw conclusions about Armed Forces capabilities.

Additionally, section 21(1) of the FOI Act states that information is exempt if it is reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. The department has undertaken a routine review of the MERLIN archive and the final version of this has since been released as part of a previous FOI request, which can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-09-july-2018>. The other vehicles you requested can be found at this link.

Section 16(1) of the FOI Act requires public authorities to provide advice and assistance to requesters, so far as it is reasonable to do so. The database in the above link is split into seven spreadsheets. The first has a list of vehicles, while sheets two through seven have the service histories. To search for a vehicle this can be done by pressing Ctrl + F, then typing the vehicle registration number, and then enter.

Furthermore, you may wish to note that when the MERLIN database was archived into its

current format some data may have been lost or corrupted. You should, therefore, be cautious that some of the data may be inaccurate.

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 Parliamentary.