



Ministry of Defence

Tim Jones

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Ref. FOI 2020/13155

18 December 2020

Dear Mr Jones,

Thank you for your email of 30 November 2020 requesting the following information:

“Please provide a breakdown of costs attributed to criminal damage incidents to Ash Ranges in Jan -March 2019 timeframe”

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI2020/13155).

In addition to FOI/13155, I note that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has also received five other requests from you on the subject of criminal damage and/or vandalism at Ash Ranges received from on 30 November 2020 (FOIs: 13156-13160). For FOIs 13156-13160, you also requested:

FOI13156 – *“Please provide a breakdown of costs attributed to criminal damage incidents to Ash Ranges in April 2019. I would like to see each incident, details of the repair that was made and any costs attributed to the incident”*

FOI13157 – *“Please provide a breakdown of costs attributed to criminal damage incidents to Ash Ranges in : May 2019. I would like to see each incident, details of the repair that was made and any costs attributed to the incident”*

FOI13158 – *“Please provide a breakdown of costs attributed to criminal damage incidents to Ash Ranges in : June & July 2019. I would like to see each incident, details of the repair that was made and any costs attributed to the incident”*

FOI13159 – *“Please provide a breakdown of costs attributed to criminal damage incidents to Ash Ranges in : August 2019. I would like to see each incident, details of the repair that was made and any costs attributed to the incident”*

FOI13160 – *“Please provide a breakdown of costs attributed to criminal damage incidents to Ash Ranges in : September to December 2019. I would like to see each incident, details of the repair that was made and any costs attributed to the incident”*

I can confirm that the MOD does hold some information in scope of your request. However, under the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations public authorities are able to aggregate two or more requests where they relate to any extent, to the same or similar information. provided certain conditions are met. These are where the FOI requests:

- Are made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- Are received within any period of 60 consecutive working days; and

Under Section 12(4) of the FOI Act, provided these conditions are met, the Department is permitted to regard the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them for the purpose of considering whether complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

We are therefore applying exemption 12(4) to all of your requests for information about criminal damage and/or vandalism at Ash Ranges as they were all received within a period of less than 60 consecutive working days.

It has been estimated that the cost of complying with your requests aggregated under the Fees Regulations as explained above would exceed the appropriate limit and therefore under the terms of Section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and for central government this is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide information requested if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. For example, if you were to reduce or refine your request to a single month. However, I must advise that any future requests on the same subject could also be aggregated under Section 12(4) if they are received within 60 working days. 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.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,

DIO Secretariat