



Ministry
of Defence

DE&S SEC Policy Secretariat

Defence Equipment and Support
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol
BS34 8JH



Email: DESSEC-PolSecShipsandSubs@mod.uk

Mr M Pavor

Our Reference:
FOI2017/05086
FOI2017/05099

Via email:
[request-403563-
3980bc07@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-403563-3980bc07@whatdotheyknow.com)

[request-403565-
e83512a5@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-403565-e83512a5@whatdotheyknow.com)

Date: 25 May 2017

Dear Mr Pavor,

Thank you for your email of 26 April 2017 requesting the following information:

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Government has recently published a paper "Better Information, Better Government" which promotes the sharing of data and ensuring that lessons are learned from the past.

This FOI request is seeking to gain access to all of your lessons identified or lessons learned data within your organisation, relating to all change projects within your portfolio (ranging from equipment projects through to change or transformation programmes).

On 12 May 2017, you provided the following clarification:

If you are unable to provide a portfolio summary of lessons identified then would you be able to provide the lessons on your top 20 projects (by value) please, which I understand should fall within the FOI cost limits.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This request was acknowledged and attributed ref. FOI2017/05086. I am writing to confirm that we hold information on the subject you have requested.

I note that on 26 May 2017, you also requested the following information:

Dear Defence Science and Technology Laboratory,

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The Government has recently published a paper "Better Information, Better Government" which promotes the sharing of data and ensuring that lessons are learned from the past.

This FOI request is seeking to gain access to all of your lessons identified or lessons learned data within your organisation, relating to all your change portfolio, including projects, change programmes and transformation, captured in accordance with APM best practice.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This request was acknowledged and attributed ref. FOI2017/05099.

I am treating your above correspondence as requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act). The public authority on which falls the legal responsibility for responding to both of these requests is the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that the MOD holds information in scope of your requests. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your full request without exceeding the appropriate limit.

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 received within any period of 60 consecutive working days; and
- 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

We have received a further two requests from a person with a virtually identical name, on the topic of lessons learned, also received on 26 April 2017. Furthermore, in correspondence with the MOD, this person has referred to FOIs covering not only the scope of their own FOIs but the scope of the above requests as well. I can only conclude that these four requests are linked and that the other requestor and you are the same person, but as you have not confirmed this I am providing this response separately.

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 lessons learned as they were all received since 26 April 2017.

It has been estimated that the cost of complying with the four requests, aggregated under the Fees Regulations as explained above, would considerably 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 some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. Your aggregated request asked for details of lessons identified or lessons learned data, relating to change

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projects within the MOD's portfolio (ranging from equipment projects through to change or transformation programmes). You may wish to refine your request, for instance by narrowing the number of projects you are interested in across the MOD, the documents you are interested in, and perhaps specifying a time range. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require further advice on doing so. I must point out however that even if you do refine your request, we cannot guarantee that it will be possible to comply within the £600 appropriate limit.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. 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 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 investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Equipment & Support Policy Secretariat