



Ministry
of Defence

de&s

DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment)

Mr Carl Harris

Via:

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Defence Equipment & Support
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5th September 2018 Our Ref: FOI2018/09115

Dear Mr Harris,

Thank you for your email of 10th July 2018 requesting the following information:

I would like to know if the MOD continues to hold the following documents relating to the 'Truck Utility Medium (HS) HT W/VPK 24v (with ACU) (Snatch-2A)':

AESP 2320 D 132 201 - Operating Information

AESP 2320 D 132 601 - Maintenance Schedules

AESP 2320 D 132 741 - Complete Equipment Schedules, Service Edition

AESP 2320 D 132 821 - General Instructions, Special Technical Instructions and Servicing Instructions

Following further communications on 16th July 2018 the request was clarified to exclude:

I no longer require the following element of the request. I trust this will make your task less onerous.

AESP 2320 D 132 201 - Operating Information

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.

The information you have requested can be found below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at sections 40 (Personal Data), and qualified exemptions provided for at section 26 (Defence) and section 38 (Health and Safety) of the FOIA and has been redacted.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Section 26 is a qualified exemption and subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 26(1)(b) has been applied to some of the information because it contains details which are operationally sensitive and would prejudice the capability and effectiveness of our armed forces. The

balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing any details that would prejudice the security of UK personnel serving in the UK and abroad and which would provide tactical advantage to our enemies. It is for these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

Section 38 has been applied because some of the information has the potential to adversely affect the physical and/or mental health of UK personnel as well as endanger the safety of an individual by exposing vulnerabilities that could be used in the formation of tactics by potential adversaries. The balance of the public interest test concluded that, whilst release would increase public understanding and confidence, the balance of the public interest lay in withholding this information. It is for these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

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,

DES SEC Pol Sec Land Equipment