



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Mr Ash Ling
request-663923-
10c9f830@whatdotheyknow.com

9th June 2020

Dear Mr Ling,

Thank you for your email of 11th May 2020 in which you requested the following information:

'I am writing to make a request for all the information to which I am entitled under Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the S10 respirator and its filters.

- 1) What is its level of protection according to industrial standards - what percent of particles can it block?*
- 2) How long can a singular filter last before needing replacing in a environment exposed to a nerve agent such as sarin or VX gas?*
- 3) Has the respirator and its filter been proved proof against anthrax spores?*
- 4) Has the respirator and its filter been proved proof against any viruses in the size between 50-200 nanometres of diameter?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This letter is to inform you that we consider that some of the information may fall within the scope of the following qualified exemption: Section 26 (Defence). As such it may be necessary for us to decide whether, in the circumstances of this case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The Freedom of Information Act 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 7th July 2020. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion we will let you know.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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,

Army Secretariat