



Ministry
of Defence

Fraud Defence
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FOI Request 2022/02198

21 March 2022

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 18 February 2022 requesting the following information:

- “1. How many weapons (by type) and explosive munitions for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as (a) lost and (b) stolen in 2021?
- 2. Please provide a list of all stolen items, value and location of the theft of all items that were recorded stolen in the 2021 calendar year.
- 3. How many department computers, laptops, memory sticks were lost/stolen by month since January 2021?”

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 some of the information in scope of your request is held.

1. How many weapons (by type) and explosive munitions for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as (a) lost and (b) stolen in 2021?

Source - Defence Security

Weapons: Type	Quantity	Lost/Stolen
SA80 Cadet PP Rifles	2	Stolen
Glock 17 Pistol	1	Lost
GPMG	1	Lost

Explosive munitions: Type	Quantity	Lost/Stolen
9mm	117	Lost
5.56mm	884	Lost
7.62mm	99	Lost

The MOD takes the security of firearms and ammunition very seriously and has robust procedures to deter and prevent losses and thefts which are constantly reviewed. The two SA80 Cadet PP Rifles that were stolen were certified deactivated and cannot be reconverted to lethal weapons. Most ammunition losses occur as a result of accidental loss during exercises or on operations.

2. Please provide a list of all stolen items, value and location of the theft of all items that were recorded stolen in the 2021 calendar year. - Please see table at Annex A

Under section 23(5) (Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters) the MOD neither confirms nor denies whether there is additional information in scope of your request. This is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test. This should not be taken as an indication that additional information is or is not held by the department.

The MOD works hard to detect and deter theft and there are robust processes in place to raise awareness of the need for vigilance in all aspects of security. Just as theft occurs in wider society, the MOD is not immune, and we actively encourage individuals to report any evidence of loss or suspicion of theft. It is important to note that in some cases of reported theft the property is later recovered. In the case of key assets however, MOD sites have a wide range of additional security measures to ensure their safety.

Please note that this response only lists those items where the cases have been closed within the time frame specified and the completed investigations established that items were stolen.

3. How many department computers, laptops, memory sticks were lost/stolen by month since January 2021?

Using the Defence Incident Management Database, the following numbers were retrieved for the Loss/Theft of Department Computers, Laptops and USB sticks by month since Jan 2021. Some of the losses can be attributed to accounting errors.

Source - ISS Defence Assurance and Information Security (DAIS)

Month	Computers	Laptops	USBs	Total
Jan - 2021	3	6	7	16
Feb - 2021	44	6	8	58
Mar - 2021	0	9	33	42
Apr - 2021	0	6	3	9
May - 2021	0	9	1	10
Jun - 2021	0	12	8	20
Jul - 2021	1	26	4	31
Aug - 2021	0	21	5	26
Sep - 2021	2	13	7	22
Oct - 2021	2	17	3	22
Nov - 2021	7	15	2	24
Dec - 2021	12	7	12	31
Total	71	147	93	311

The MOD is a very large organisation which employs over 229,000 personnel¹ worldwide. All breaches of security are taken very seriously. MOD Policy requires all breaches to be reported regardless of whether there is firm evidence of loss or just an inability to account for some devices. All incidents are subjected to an initial security risk assessment with further action taken on a proportionate basis.

It is also MOD policy that all laptop, tablet computers and removable media are encrypted to minimise the impact if a loss were to occur. Investigations indicate that many of the losses identified are in fact accounting errors highlighted by security mustering processes.

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

Fraud Defence

¹ Source: Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21

All items centrally reported stolen in the 2021 calendar year – source: *Fraud Defence*

Items stolen	Location	Alleged Offence value where recorded	Items recovered or partial recovery
2 x battery	HMS Northumberland	£138.46	NO
Tactical Gym Box	Thirsk	£0.00	NO
Body armour with filler	Edinburgh	£223.26	NO
Helmet	Newcastle	£0.00	NO
2 x Projector, 1 x Wireless Hard Drive, 2 x Wireless Hard Drive 1TB, 2 x Power Core, 2 x Peli Case, 2 x Tripod, 1 x Hardcase Max	Chilwell	£1,030.38	NO
Toolbox and contents.	Dishforth Airfield	£650.00	NO
32 x Para cord, batteries, Radio, 2 x practice grenades	Windsor	£665.00	NO
Respirator	Catterick Garrison	£0.00	NO
Helmet, Body Armour and side plates.	Dubai	£0.00	NO
Body Armour and Helmet	Leuchars Station	£0.00	NO
Helmet & Vest with cover	Colchester	£1,271.48	NO
Respirator and helmet	Bicester	£0.00	NO
2x Body armour plates	Rutland	£73.70	NO
Tactical Vest Soft Armour Filler	Warminster	£0.00	NO
Various items of MOD property	Colchester	£22,423.27	NO
4 x Platoon flags	Colchester	£0.00	NO
Fire extinguisher	Colchester	£0.00	NO
Vest and Helmet nape pad	Tidworth	£164.40	NO
MTP Camelbak Daysack, containing a number of MOD issued items	Cottesmore	£0.00	NO
1x Smock, 1x foldable roll matt, 1x daysack, 1x back spine, 1x Sleeping bag (3 tier system), 1x Respirator, 1x UBAC, 1x MTP Trouser, 2x T-shirts and 4x socks	Andover	£0.00	NO
Helmet	Andover	£0.00	NO
Body armour, helmet, 2 x 5.56 magazines and pouches, a radio pouch and various other items.	Catterick	£0.00	NO
Body Armour, spine protection	Abingdon	£36.64	NO
Field Pack, Respirator, Cover Vest Small Arms, Vest small arm protection, Field Pack large size	Newcastle	£425.39	NO
Wiper motor	Tidworth	£120.00	NO
Set of MAN SV Troop-Carrying Vehicle Conversion (TCVC) seats.	Tidworth	£10,464.99	NO
Kettle bell	Aldergrove	£50.00	NO

Items stolen	Location	Alleged Offence value where recorded	Items recovered or partial recovery
Goretex Jacket	Colchester	£0.00	NO
Cash	Cottesmore	£440.00	NO
1x Projector, 2x laptops, 3x Astro scope lenses, 3x Camera lenses 80-200, 4x Camera lenses 17-355, lens covers, 3x Camera lenses 70-200, 3x Nikon camera, 2x issued binoculars, 3x HMVS, 2x Viper II sights, 1x Camera lens 300	Warminster	£79,712.24	NO
Body Armour Spine Protection, Collar Small Arms Protection	Tidworth	£88.66	NO
Kettlebells and gym eqpt	Larkhill	£2,000.00	NO
24v Slave Start (HGV starter) and Projector.	Kenya	£1,426.33	NO
Unspecified MOD stores	London	£0.00	NO
Various items of Service eqpt	Tamworth	£1,600.00	NO
Helmet and Laptop	Nottingham	£0.00	NO
Ballistic collar	Inverness	£400.00	NO
Various items of Service eqpt	Portsmouth	£0.00	NO
Respirator, Helmet and Body Armour with plates and various items of service eqpt	Wigan	£0.00	NO
8 x hand/power tools	Belize	£1,239.46	NO
3 x vehicle mechanic toolboxes	Belize	£1,622.35	NO
Trophy	Cottesmore	£0.00	NO
2 x Bike	Bristol	£1,000.00	NO
Fuel	Kenya	£4,400.00	NO
Helmet Ground Troops, Respirator	Gloucester	£289.11	NO
8 x Fentanyl lolly pops	Colchester	£0.00	NO
Helmet and other issued military kit	Abingdon	£0.00	NO
Bowman Power Distribution Unit (PDU)	Topcliffe	£0.00	NO
Ballistic Plates	Catterick Garrison	£0.00	NO
Helmet	Dartmoor Training Area	£334.00	NO
Adventure Training clothing	Kenya	£3,451.42	NO
Pair of 5kg, pair of 10kg Halo dumbbells.	Belfast	£40.00	NO
BOWMAN UCD	Tidworth	£0.00	NO
Ear Defenders	Castle Martin	£0.00	NO
Rear Canvas MAN SV Cover	Tidworth	£0.00	NO
1 x San-Jig; Router; Hammer Rty Drill, Hammer Drill/Impact D; Belt Sander; Sander	Belize	£1,216.87	NO
10 x Glock pistol holsters	Wattisham	£1,650.00	NO

Items stolen	Location	Alleged Offence value where recorded	Items recovered or partial recovery
6 -8 Army camo jackets.	Tidworth	£0.00	NO
Helmet	Colchester	£0.00	NO
Bike	Colchester	£0.00	NO
Helmet	Essex	£374.00	NO
Sleeping bag	Essex	£250.00	NO
1 x Sonobuoy	Bristol	£4,117.50	NO
Respirator	Not Known	£0.00	NO
Stormshadow Nose Cone	Not Known	£0.00	NO
Laptop	Clyde	£0.00	NO
2 x Weapon Sights	Clyde	£4,087.26	NO
5 x Camera	Portsmouth	£1,425.80	NO
Respirator	Marham	£78.00	NO
Respirator and helmet	RAF Waddington	£241.13	NO