



# Ministry of Defence Police

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Date: 24 April 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: BODY ARMOUR.**

I acknowledge receipt of your e-mail of 15 April 2015 which we are treating as request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your e-mail of 15 April 2015, you requested the following information:

1. What is the name and make of the new body armour that was issued to me?
2. How much does the new style body armour weigh?
3. How much did my old style body armour weigh?
4. How many other people have complained/put in paperwork regarding the new style body armour?
5. What are their complaints regarding the new style body armour?
6. Where was the new style body armour trialled?
7. How long was it trialled for?
8. Who was it trialled by and do they carry the same additional equipment and weight as the MDP at Aldermaston?
9. Were any complaints made regarding the new style body armour when it was being trialled?
10. What other sites or forces are using the new style body armour and do they carry the same additional equipment and weight as the MDP at Aldermaston?
11. What procedures were used/followed to bring the new style body armour to Aldermaston?
12. Have the Health and Safety Executive been informed of the problems with the new style body armour?

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13. Why are some officers wearing the new style body armour and others are not? I understand that some officers are refusing to wear it. What are the reasons for this?
14. What are the MDP doing with regard to the new style body armour, given that people are having problems with it?

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held:

1. *What is the name and make of the new body armour that was issued to me?*

The armour does not have a name, it is manufactured by Aegis Engineering Ltd model number AP##0136

2. *How much does the new style body armour weigh?*

A comparison has been made between a male 3D size set of armour.

	Size 3D Old Armour	Size 3D New Armour MOLLE
Hard Armour Plates	2.1kg / 4.8lb	1.9kg / 4.2lb
Soft Armour with Carrier	3.3kg / 7.2kg	4.2kg / 9.2lb
Soft Armour only	2.6kg / 5.8lb	2.8kg / 6.2lb
Carrier	0.7kg / 1.6lb	1.4kg / 3.2lb

Summary:

New hard armour plate is 0.2Kg lighter than the old one, making a total weight saving of 0.4kg.

New soft armour panels are 0.2kg heavier, this is because they conform to the 2007 HOSDB standard not the 1997 standard, also there is an 8% increase in body coverage.

New carrier is 0.7kg heavier, this is because it has the MOLLE system on it, the carrier is therefore an equipment vest as well.

3. *How much did my old style body armour weigh?*

See above.

4. *How many other people have complained/put in paperwork regarding the new style body armour?*

To date we have had 14 defect reports concerning the new MOLLE BA.

5. *What are their complaints regarding the new style body armour?*

Causing discomfort / pain to shoulders and back.

6. *Where was the new style body armour trialled?*

No trial conducted by the MDP.

7. *How long was it trialled for?*

Not applicable. No trial conducted by the MDP.

8. *Who was it trialled by and do they carry the same additional equipment and weight as the MDP at Aldermaston?]*

Not applicable. No trial conducted by the MDP.

9. *Were any complaints made regarding the new style body armour when it was being trialled?*

Not applicable. No trial conducted by the MDP.

10. *What other sites or forces are using the new style body armour and do they carry the same additional equipment and weight as the MDP at Aldermaston?*

The armour is being worn by every officer in the MDP. It is also worn by AFO's in the Met Police, the contract is available for all other Police Forces to procure from. I cannot advise if they carry the same weight as MDP Aldermaston officers.

11. *What procedures were used/followed to bring the new style body armour to Aldermaston?*

Body armour issued as a new equipment item.

12. *Have the Health and Safety Executive been informed of the problems with the new style body armour?*

No.

13. *Why are some officers wearing the new style body armour and others are not? I understand that some officers are refusing to wear it. What are the reasons for this?*

To our knowledge the only officers not wearing the new MOLLE are TSG, SEG and Marine. In the first two cases it is due to the fact that they are awaiting trials of a new Cover. This cover will contain the same armour panels as found in the standard MOLLE. In the case of the Marine officers they are unable to deploy with the MOLLE armour until it has passed the industry standard marine safety trials, these are planned for later this year. There may be other officers not wearing the armour from outside the above 3 groups but these are awaiting correctly fitting MOLLE to be delivered to them.

14. *What are the MDP doing with regard to the new style body armour, given that people are having problems with it?*

If any officer experiences problems with the armour they are offered a visit to HQ to be re-measured and given advice on how to wear the armour and alternative methods of how to deploy. The carrier can be modified to aid comfort and this is being looked at. Alternatively female specific body armour is being looked at with a trial planned.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 Team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (email [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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 the 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

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