



Ministry
of Defence

██████████
Policy Secretariat

Defence Equipment and Support
Ministry of Defence
#2043 Maple 0a
Ministry of Defence
Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH

Email: DESSEC-PolSecLE-JSC-
WPNS@mod.uk



Your Reference:

Our Reference:
2016/03577

Date:
14 April 2016

Dear ██████████,

Thank you for your email dated 23 March 2016. You asked:

... Can you tell me what is the MOD policy (please can you provide a copy of the relevant instruction) with regards to the disposal of MOD trials uniform and personal equipment items of kit?

I see a lot of MOD trials uniform and personal equipment items which have been cut up or 'slashed' prior to disposal. Why is this – when current in service items (such as body armour covers) seem to get released from the MOD undamaged?

I am treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

The Disposal Services Authority (DSA), part of the MOD, disposes of defence equipment that is surplus to requirement. This includes anything from large equipments such as warships, tanks and aircraft to smaller assets such as clothing and textiles, military spares, scrap metal and office/IT equipment.

Most surplus equipment is sold through a series of competitively awarded marketing agreements with specialist contractors. These marketing agreements are structured to not only encourage the commercial partner to achieve the highest possible level of return from sale but to provide a cost free disposal service to the Department, with costs and profit only being recoverable on completion of sale. This ensures that the best return for the taxpayer is achieved.

Further information about the DSA can be found on their website using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/disposal-services-authority>

If you follow the link for the *Commercial Disposals Team* you will find a list of specialist marketing contractors. Disposal Services Ltd is responsible for clothing and its website can be found at:

<http://www.disposalservices.co.uk/>

I would add that when disposing of surplus uniforms it is a contractual requirement that all badges, emblems, insignia and motifs must be removed. Where this is not possible, the uniform is destroyed by the contractor and the material is recycled.

The Defence Clothing Team (DCT), part of Defence Equipment & Support, is responsible for providing clothing to the Regular Forces, Army Reservists, MOD Police and Guards, and Cadets. DCT are responsible for the disposal of trial items that are returned to them at the end of a trial. If the items have been supplied at no cost to the MOD, they are returned to the manufacturer or disposed of in accordance with their instructions. Items that have been purchased by DCT are, dependent on condition, either destroyed or declared to DSA for sale.

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, 1st 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



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