



Ministry
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment and ISTAR)

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Defence Equipment & Support
Maple 0a # 2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



Via:

23-Aug-16

Our Reference: FOI2016/07751

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 10th August 2016 requesting the following information:

The purpose of this FOI request is to ascertain information about the production contracts for the British Army's MkIV Osprey Body Armour vests.

It is my understanding that there were in fact two types of Osprey MKIV vest:

1) The first was issued in 2009/10 in the Desert Disruptively Patterned Material (DDPM) and tan colours, and was designed and manufactured by SOLO International.

2) The second was issued from 2010 onwards in the MTP and civilian blue colours, and was designed and manufactured by CQC.

FOI request Part A:

Please confirm that the above details are correct, or amend where necessary to provide dates of issue.

FOI request Part B:

Please provide an explanation of why the contract for the manufacture of Osprey MkIV vests was transferred from SOLO International to CQC.

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.

I can confirm that the detail in Part A 1) is correct.

The statement in Part A 2) is incorrect and should more accurately read – “From 2010 onwards Osprey IV was issued in multi-terrain pattern (MTP), the initial batch was produced by Solo International Ltd and subsequent batches were manufactured by CQC Ltd”.

Regarding Part B of your request, the MOD transferred production to CQC Ltd in order to meet the operational demand for body armour required at the time of Operation HERRICK.

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, 2nd 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,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

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