



# Ministry of Defence

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Our Reference:  
FOI2016/10740

8 December 2016

Thank you for your email dated 9 November 2016, requesting the following information:

*"Could you please provide:*

*\* A full list of the firearms, ammunition and other munitions or weapons that have gone missing during the last three years. Can you please categorise these missing firearms/ammunition/other munitions/other weapons by type (i.e. SA80, Glock 17, grenades, explosives, landmines, knives etc.).*

*\* Can you provide total figures across the military? Can you also please break down the above figures by the "corps & regiments" designations used here on the Army website <http://www.army.mod.uk/structure/32320.aspx>*

*\* Can you further break down the figures for a) each infantry regiment b) each Royal Armoured Corps regiment*

*\* Can you show the same figures for a) the RAF b) the Royal Navy*

*\* For the Royal Navy can you show specifically the figures for the Royal Marines?*

*\* Can you then breakdown the Royal Marine figures by the following units: 40 Commando, 42 Commando, 43 Commando Protection Group, 45 Commando, 30 Commando Group, Armoured Support Group, Commando Logistic Regiment, Commando Engineers, 29 Commando Regiment."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below and at Annex A, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of qualified exemptions provided for at Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 31 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 31 has been applied because releasing details of weapon thefts/losses, broken down by year, type and specifically location/unit could be prejudicial to the prevention and detection of crime. When a public interest test was conducted, relating to the use of this section, it was deemed that the balance of public interest lay against the release of location for the aforementioned reasons.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the statistics provided at Annex A cover in-use<sup>1</sup> MOD firearms and live ammunition/munitions. Therefore these statistics will differ from a previously released FOIA response which included deactivated, antique and replica firearms and blank ammunition.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-14-november-2016>

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you may apply for 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](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that this request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

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 detail of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Defence Security & Resilience

Annex:

A. Unaccounted for in-use MOD firearms covering period 2014-2016.

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<sup>1</sup> Defined as weapon systems currently in-use by the UK Armed Forces and does not include deactivated, antique or replica firearms.

UNACCOUNTED FOR IN-USE MOD FIREARMS COVERING PERIOD 2014-2016

2014		BRITISH ARMY	ROYAL NAVY	ROYAL AIR FORCE	ROYAL MARINES
	<b>IN-USE MOD FIREARMS</b>				
	L85A2				2
	Sig Sauer Pistol				1
	<b>AMMUNITION</b>				
	5.56mm	201	30	1	
	7.62mm		2		
	9mm	15			
	<b>EXPLOSIVES</b>				

2015		BRITISH ARMY	ROYAL NAVY	ROYAL AIR FORCE	ROYAL MARINES
	<b>IN-USE MOD FIREARMS</b>				
	AK47	1			
	<b>AMMUNITION</b>				
	5.56mm	466			31
	7.62mm	1600			
	9mm			15	
	0.5in		4		
	<b>EXPLOSIVES</b>				

2016 (to November)		BRITISH ARMY	ROYAL NAVY	ROYAL AIR FORCE	ROYAL MARINES
<b>IN-USE MOD FIREARMS</b>					
	L85A2	3			
	LMG	1			
	GLOCK 17	1			
	.22 Anschultz Fortner Sport Rifle	1			
<b>AMMUNITION</b>					
	5.56mm	81435		1	
	7.62mm	561			
	9mm			15	
	0.338in	310			
	Unknown Calibre	529		10	
<b>EXPLOSIVES</b>					
	L14A2 Practice Hand Grenade	8			
	Battle Simulator	1			
	Distraction Grenades	6			