



Ministry of Defence

Fraud Defence
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12th December 2019

FOI Request 2019/12854

Thank you for your email of 12th November 2019 requesting the following information:

- “1. How many weapons for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as lost or stolen in the 12 months from 1 October 2108 to 30 September 2019. Please break down by type and provide as much detail as possible about specific occasions.*
- 2. How many munitions for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as lost or stolen in the 12 months from 1 October 2108 to 30 September 2019. Please break down by type and provide as much detail as possible about specific occasions.*
- 3. How many pieces of other hardware costing in excess of £1000 for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as stolen in the 12 months from 1 October 2108 to 30 September 2019. Please break down by type and provide as much detail as possible about specific occasions.*
- 4. How many department computers, laptops, and memory sticks for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as lost or stolen in the 12 months from 1 October 2108 to 30 September 2019. Please break down by type and provide as much detail as possible about specific occasions.”*

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 for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as lost or stolen in the 12 months from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019. Please break down by type and provide as much detail as possible about specific occasions.

2. How many munitions for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as lost or stolen in the 12 months from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019. Please break down by type and provide as much detail as possible about specific occasions.

The information you have requested can be found below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of absolute exemptions provided for at Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant) and qualified exemptions provided for at Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-released-by-mod-week-commencing-1-april-2019>

In addition to the above, since 27 February 2019, the following firearm(s) and ammunition were reported, and remain, missing:

Firearms:

Type	Quantity	Reported by	Lost/Stolen
L103A2 – SA80 (Cadet Drill Purpose Rifle)	4	Army	Stolen from a Merseyside Cadet Facility
L144A1 – Cadet Small Bore Target Rifle	4	Army	Stolen from a Merseyside Cadet Facility
.303 Lee Enfield Bolt Action Rifles	2	Army	Stolen from Reserve Centre's permanent display.

Ammunition:

Type	Quantity	Lost/Stolen
4.6mm	22	Lost
5.56mm	33	Lost
7.62mm	73	Lost
9mm	25	Lost
.22in	1000	Stolen from Merseyside Cadet Facility

The MOD takes the security of firearms and ammunition very seriously and have robust procedures to deter and prevent losses and thefts which are constantly reviewed. The loss of 4x L103A2 – SA80, 4x L144A1 - CSBTR and 1000x .22in rounds of ammunition occurred in a single theft from a Merseyside cadet facility in March 2019. The majority of ammunition losses occur as a result of accidental loss during exercises or on operations.

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 the unit responsible/location of loss or theft 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 unit responsible for the aforementioned reasons.

3. How many pieces of other hardware costing in excess of £1000 for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as stolen in the 12 months from 1 October 2108 to 30 September 2019. Please break down by type and provide as much detail as possible about specific occasions.

All Hardware (interpreted as MOD Assets/equipment) centrally reported stolen and with a value recorded between October 2018 and September 2019. 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. *source - Fraud Defence*

2 X Speedometer, Generator and a starter engine	Kenya	No
Farrier tools	London	No
Body Armour	Bristol	No
Mountain Bike, Steel Karabiners & HOLK Harnesses-Descenders	Taunton	No
Generator Assy & Brakes	Kenya	No
Viscous Units	Kenya	No
Helmet, Body Armour, 9 x Radios	Andover	No
vehicle batteries	Tidworth	No
specialist motorcycle clothing and equipment	Portsmouth	Yes
Clarinet and ear plugs	Twickenham	No
Gym equipment	Bovington	No
Target Location & Observation, Med kit, Sleeping Bag, Water Bottle	Kenya	No
Keypad display unit and Radio	Kenya	No
Quad Bike	Aldershot	No
VIRTUS eqpt	Germany	No
Camera	Dartmouth	No
Sextant maritime	Gosport	No
2 x Vehicle Loading Ramps	RAF Honington	No
Airfield Lighting Cable	RAF Brize Norton	No
Cash	RAF Brize Norton	No
7 x Objective Lens Assemblies	RAF Shawbury	No
Granulated range rubber	RAF Wittering	No
Military Targets	eBay	No

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.

4. How many department computers, laptops, and memory sticks for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as lost or stolen in the 12 months from 1 October 2108 to 30 September 2019. Please break down by type and provide as much detail as possible about specific occasions.

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 1st October 2018 to 30 September 2019. Some of the losses can be attributed to accounting errors
Source - ISS Defence Assurance and Information Security (DAIS)

Month	Computers	Laptops	USBS	Total
Oct-18	1	7	29	37
Nov-18		12	5	17
Dec-18		5	1	6
Jan-19		5	1	6
Feb-19		6	5	11
Mar-19	6	41	8	55
Apr-19	1	2	6	9
May-19	14	11	6	31
Jun-19		14	7	21
Jul-19	3	22	4	29
Aug-19	3	34	3	40
Sep-19	2	51	5	58
Total	30	210	80	320

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/>.

Confidential Hotline