



Ministry
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat Land Equipment

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Thank you for your e-mail dated 28 June 2017, requesting the following information:

Thank you very much for the answer.

I was wondering if you could help me with some follow-up questions:

- Is there any chance to estimate how large is the THPS program in terms of number of soldiers or funding costs?*
- How long is THPS program running?*
- Which military departments are included in this program?*

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.

Taking your questions in turn:

There are a total of 280,666 units, in the Tactical Hearing Protection System Program (THPS). They break down as follows: Basic User (BU) - 250,000; Specialist User (SU) -9,800; and Dismounted Close Combat User (DCCU) -20,866 systems.

The contracts for the BU and DCCU are for 4 years from 2015 to 2019, with an option to extend at the end of this period, (3x1 year extensions), if required, potentially taking the contracts to 2022. The SU contract is due to end autumn 2017, as the Armed Forces have enough inventory to cover them for two years, the contract will be reviewed at that point.

THPS is a tri-service programme, it is made up of, Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, however the Army Reserves, Royal Marines Reserves and Royal Air Force Reserves, have now been encompassed into the DCCU element.

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, Ground 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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