



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2016/08761

██████████ ██████████

Reply to: ██████████ ██████████ ██████████

11 October 2016

Dear ██████████ ██████████,

Thank you for your email of 15 September 2016, which requested the following information:

“I would like to request details of the organisational structure of the following units

32 regiment royal artillery

47 regiment royal artillery

39 squadron RAF

13 squadron RAF

700x royal naval air squadron

Can this please show the number of service personnel in each battery/troop/flight/section and headquarters broken down by rank and trade group/branch.

Can you also indicate the number of personnel (again broken down by rank and trade if possible) of any service personnel from other units (eg REME or station Engineering Wing) who would typically accompany the unit on deployment to provide support to the unit. ”

Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act).

A Public Interest Test (PIT) has been conducted, as advised in our letter dated 23 September 2016. 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. However the PIT determined that the information you request is exempt under section 26 (Defence) of the FOI Act and is therefore being withheld.

Section 26 is a qualified exemption which required a PIT to establish the balance on releasing or withholding the information. In this case, the arguments for release included the public interest on how Defence is run; what manning the Services require in the units requested; and, the Government's openness and transparency agenda.

Arguments for withholding the information included the risk of giving potential enemies details of capability which could be used against our forces and could place our personnel at more risk than they otherwise might have been; and, details of structure and numbers could be used by enemy forces to adapt their tactics and techniques accordingly. Having considered the arguments for and against the release of the information requested, we have decided that on balance the information should be withheld as its release is likely to be prejudicial to and cause damage to our Armed Forces.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Defence People Secretariat FOI