



Ministry
of Defence

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 8 July 2015 which requested the following information:

As I'm sure you know, there is a huge debate raging around the efficiency or otherwise of HMG in terms of procurement. One department - the Ministry of Defence - always seems to take a kicking. I stumbled across this, from the respected journalist Mr. Snow...

<http://blogs.channel4.com/snowblog/a-revolving-door-that-knows-few-bounds/13930>

In it he makes the assertion, that - after talking to an un-named 'defence analyst' - the Israeli Defence Forces only have a 400 involved in procurement while the MoD has 28,000.....the implication being that the MoD is grossly over-manned and inefficient etc.

I wonder, if you may be so good as to check the claim as clearly the 'defence analyst' got their information from somewhere and did specifically mention the MoD. I'm not bothered if you chose to publish the answer on your website - it's probably too boring - but if you do decide to investigate and can find any documents comparing the two claims I'd be delighted if you could let me know.

I am treating your email as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

You will note that the blog to which you refer was published in 2010. Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S), where most defence procurement is undertaken, currently employs around 12,500 people. This is a significant reduction from the c29,000 that worked in the organisation on its launch in 2007, and from the c21,000 that were working in DE&S in 2010. A breakdown of all MOD staff since 2010, including grade and role, is published on gov.uk as part of the Government's Transparency Agenda at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-organisation-charts>.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (advice and assistance), you may wish to note that work is ongoing to transform DE&S into a world-class acquisition and support organisation. We are making good progress and, in April 2014, DE&S was launched as a Bespoke Trading Entity, operating as an arm's length body of the MOD. We can now make use of unique management freedoms on how we operate the business, and we have also brought in private sector expertise – through contracts for Managed Service Providers – to help us in the areas we need it most – that is project delivery

Defence Equipment & Support

and human resources. As part of this transformation work, we have taken account of international comparators, including Israel, in order to apply best practice in reforming our delivery of defence equipment and support. That said, it is difficult to make direct comparisons with other nations' defence procurement models as structural differences, roles, operational commitments and equipment needs vary. It is particularly worth noting that UK defence procurement is generally characterised by the purchase of bespoke equipment, which is much more resource intensive than that of Israel, which procures significant 'military off the shelf' materiel to meet its requirements.

You can find more information about DE&S on gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-equipment-and-support/about>.

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, 1st 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,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.