



Ministry of Defence

**Defence Resources Secretariat
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Reference: FOI2014/02113

[REDACTED]

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Date: 1 July 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Your correspondence dated 6 June 2014 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. You requested the following information:

I was wonder it is that the United Kingdom has decided to scale back on defence spending during a period in which, tension are starting to run high between east and west. Surely don't we need to increase defence spending again and bring it up to about 60 or 61 billion pounds a year, so that we can fund the purchase and development of some new equipment and personal. Moreover isn't a bit illogical for us to be cutting back the number of military personal during a period when we really need to be increasing the number of personal. I was wondering what Mr Hammonds thoughts on this are?

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds no recorded information that would provide an answer to the question you have asked in your request.

You may find it helpful to know that The Information Commissioner's Office publishes guidance on how to make requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act in the ICO Charter for Responsible Freedom of Information Requests, available on the ICO website at the following address:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/practical_application/its_public_information_foi%20charter_final.pdf

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, public authorities are required to provide advice and assistance while processing FOI requests, and I have therefore included some additional information below that you may find useful.

[Defence Secretary Philip Hammond delivered a speech at the Reform Annual Dinner in London on Tuesday 13 May](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-path-to-changing-defence>

The Defence Secretary and the Chief of the Defence Staff have issued statements following the Chancellor's Spending Round 2013 announcement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spending-round-2013>

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Resources Secretariat

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 CIQ-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>.