



Ministry of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2016/02982**

[Redacted]

E-mail: [Redacted]

Date: **23 March 2016**

Dear [Redacted],

Your correspondence dated 7 March 2016 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

I am writing an essay on the subject of Britain's invasion of Iraq in year 2003. I would like to look at numerical data and statistics regarding the expenditure and cost of this invasion. For comparing reasons, I would also like to see the same kind of data for year 2002.

Please find below the information you requested.

The table below contains a summary of the Net Additional Cost of UK Military Operations (NACMO) in Iraq for financial years 2002-03 to 2004-05. The totals include Resource Departmental Expenditure Limits (RDEL), Capital Departmental Expenditure Limits (CDEL) and Annually Managed Expenditure (AME).

| Annual Audited Cost of Operations in Iraq Inclusive of non-recoverable VAT at Current Prices (£ million) | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 |
| 848.2 | 1,310.8 | 909.9 |

The NACMO represents the costs over and above those that would have been incurred regardless of any overseas operations taking place (eg, pay and pensions), offset by savings in the Defence programme arising from the deployment of forces to theatre. Offsetting costs are those such as reductions in the training commitment arising from the cancellation of, or reduced participation in, military exercises.

The NACMO have mainly been funded by the Treasury's Special Reserve since 2001-02, rather than through the Defence core programme. This methodology is used by the Treasury to determine what the department can claim back from the Reserve. The expenditure is audited, on an annual basis, by the National Audit Office.

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.

Further information on UK military operations in Iraq can be found in the relevant MOD Annual Report and Accounts. 2003-2004 can be found at the link below:

MOD Annual Report and Accounts – 2003-2004

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/251098/1080.pdf

The MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2002-03 is not available on-line but may be available via The Stationery Office quoting the relevant International Standard Book Number (ISBN) that can be found in the table below:

| MOD Annual Reports and Accounts | |
|--|---------------|
| Year | ISBN |
| 2002-2003 | 0-10-292361-2 |

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>.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Resources Secretariat