



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Thank you for your email of 16 Oct 14, in which you requested the following:

"The main figure I would like to obtain is the total number of firearms that have been lost or stolen, by year, from all the Ministry of Defence forces within the UK, specifically firearms that have been lost or stolen from the MOD on UK soil. Firearms including but not limited to, tasers, pistols and fully automatic rifles. In addition, if possible, I would like a break down of which forces the lost or stolen firearms had come from including a breakdown of what specific firearm was lost or stolen, e.g. taser, pistol or rifle. Further information in regards to the location that the firearms was lost or taken from would be most appreciated also e.g. secure lock up, car, directly from personal etc. Although a complete "from records began" account would be nice, I except that this may be difficult therefore records of the last 10 years would be sufficient."

Your correspondence has been treated 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 the majority of the information in the scope of your request is held although certain elements of your request have been withheld under Section 31(Law Enforcement). Also due to amendments to the MoD's reporting and data retention procedures in 2011, records are only available for the past 4 years.

The number of firearms and lost or stolen from MoD over the past 4 years is as follows:

	Firearms
2014 (to end Oct)	8
2013	18
2012	21
2011	9

It is in the interest of public safety that information, which if released could be more harmful than the community benefit achieved by its release, is withheld. As such Section 31 (1)(a) (Law Enforcement) has been applied to some of the information in the scope of your request, as it was deemed that releasing the weapon types, locations and the years they were lost or stolen could be prejudicial to the prevention and detection of crime. When a public interest test was conducted, relating to the use of this section, it was deemed that the balance of public interest lay against the release of weapon types for the aforementioned reasons.

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 Defence Security (DBR-DefSy-SecretariatOffice@mod.uk) 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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Security