



Ministry  
of Defence

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Policy Secretariat

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Email:

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Your Reference:

Our Reference:

██████████

Date:

27 June 2014

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your email dated 3 June 2014. You asked:

***What is the MOD/HMG policy on disposing of surplus and obsolete small arms from World War II until the present day?***

***Who is the contact person or organisation responsible for such disposals? How can they be contacted?***

***How should a British commercial company engage with HMG to purchase such weapons for deactivation and onward sales?***

I acknowledge your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and I can inform you that the MOD holds information relating to your request.

The sale of weapons is strictly regulated by the UK Firearms Act 1968 and other legislation such as the International Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Regimes. The MOD does not sell surplus weapons in the commercial market place.

It is Government policy that small arms which are declared surplus by the Ministry of Defence—other than automatic weapons which are routinely destroyed—are made available only to Governments, for use by acceptable military, paramilitary and police organisations, either directly or through duly licensed entities authorised to procure weapons.

Any small arms not sold to other Governments will be destroyed in line with tightly controlled procedures and sold as scrap metal. This activity is undertaken by the Disposal Services Authority (DSA) which disposes of defence equipment that is surplus to requirement on behalf of the MOD. Further information about the DSA can be found using the following internet link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/disposal-services-authority>

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 Team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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 the case until the 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



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