



Ministry of Defence

Defence Resources Secretariat
Ministry of Defence
Main Building (Level 3, Zone A)
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: DGFinance-SecParliamentaryFOI@mod.uk

Reference: FOI2014/07576

[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Date: 30 December 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Your correspondence dated 17 November 2014 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

I have a question on what is included in the defence statistics. In the compendium for 2013 (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/356873/UKDS_2013_Revised_Sept_2014.pdf) defence spending in 2012/2013 totalled £34.3 billion.

However, in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2014 there are some different figures

In tables 4.2-4.3 it says that total public sector expenditure on defence was £36.4 billion in 2012/2013 in nominal terms and £37 billion in real terms. What is the difference between these two different figures? Is this related to the Special Reserve Fund that is over and above the departmental allocations? (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-expenditure-statistical-analyses-2014>)

Please find below the information you requested.

Table 4.2 in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2014 (PESA) shows public sector expenditure on 'Defence' as defined by the United Nations Classification Of the Functions Of Government (COFOG) and not the expenditure by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), although MOD contributes most of it. Table 5.1 of the PESA shows the function broken down by Department, MOD has £34.3bn and the Cabinet Office has the remaining £2bn. This framework and format is set centrally by HM Treasury and Office for National Statistics and not programmed directly by the MOD so the MOD does not own what gets published as 'Defence'.

In the UK Defence Statistics Compendium 2013 Defence Statistics only publish MOD financial statistics as per the Departmental boundaries so this is not directly comparable to the figures in the PESA.

I hope you find this helpful.

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.gov.uk>.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Resources Secretariat