



# Ministry of Defence

Fraud Incident & Irregularity Reporting Unit  
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18<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your correspondence of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 requesting the following information:

*"I would like you to provide me with a cost for all equipment lost or stolen within permanent MOD establishments, non-operational locations, over the period 1 Apr 12 to 31 Mar 13. The response should include all equipment including items such as computers, communications equipment, vehicles and weapons. It is appreciated that this is a wide ranging question and not all details will be available, however you should caveat your response if you have been unable to provide a comprehensive list. The answer can be provided in electronic form and consist of cost, equipment type and department."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to confirm that MOD holds information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to *locate, retrieve, extract* information in scope of your request would involve apart from in the case of thefts, having to trawl the Department to obtain the information, at least some 208 working days of effort.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the MOD records information on losses that occur for a variety of reasons. Stores losses, which relate to losses of items of equipment, etc, are recorded discretely within the Department and are categorised into either culpable losses, including fraud, theft, arson, sabotage, repairable damage to buildings, stores, etc, caused maliciously (known as category B1 losses), and all other types of stores losses (known as category B2 losses). Thefts are a subcategory of category B1 losses and because of the seriousness of the matter we keep separate central

records on thefts. For that reason, it is generally easier to provide information about thefts than other types of losses, though it is dependent on the nature of the specific enquiry.

Apart from in the case of thefts, information on other losses is not held centrally. Information on losses held centrally consists only of the summary information, and some more detailed information on losses exceeding £250,000, that appears in the MOD Annual Report and Accounts under section 25. Departmental Group – Losses and Special Payments (see link below).

### MOD Annual Reports and Accounts – 2012-2013

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-annual-report-and-accounts-201213>

In most cases, therefore, the information held centrally about stores losses consists only of the number of cases of losses and value of these cases for each Top Level Budgetary area in the Department. Note that each 'case' of a loss might actually consist of the loss of more than one item, and therefore in order to identify losses of individual items it might be necessary to examine individual cases. This is made more difficult by the fact that the MOD is a large and geographically dispersed organisation.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you were to reduce or refine your request to a specific MOD location or specific type of loss as detailed above.

Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

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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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd 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 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>.