



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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3 September 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 15 August requesting the following information:

"The total number of incidents of unexploded wartime ordnance attended by Army or Navy explosive ordnance disposal units in the UK in the two 12 month periods from August 1st 2012 to July 31st 2013 and August 1st 2013 to July 31st 2014."

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 the 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 cost limit. 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.

To locate, retrieve and extract the information in scope of your request would involve the examination of in the region of 4,500 incidents for the period requested. It is estimated that it will take, on average, ten minutes to examine and compile the relevant data from each incident. Each incident would require detailed investigation to determine the type of ordnance involved. This will equate to approximately 750 man hours of work, the equivalent of 21 weeks for an individual to research.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine it to bring the cost of compliance within the limit. Should you still wish to refine your question, you could ask for all Conventional Munitions Disposal tasks undertaken during the period concerned excluding false alarms and those that involved ammunition collected from police stations. Further, if you are attempting gain a full picture, you could also include 5131 Bomb Disposal Squadron, RAF, within your request. You should also note that there will be incidents where an item was deemed to be too unsafe to be fully uncovered from the ground and the operator will have elected to destroy it by demolition in-situ. In these cases the type of ordnance will not be known. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

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). 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,

Army Secretariat