



Ministry of Defence
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Whitehall
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Our Ref: FOI2014/04623

E-mail: DBR-DefSy-SecretariatOffice@mod.uk

24 September 2014

Thank you for your email of 28 Aug 14, in which you requested the following:

"Could you provide me with details of the number of weapons and the quantity of ammunition stolen from the Ministry of Defence in the last five years. With regard to the weapons could you break the numbers down by year and type of weapon."

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 concerns over the accuracy of records prior to 2011, when reporting and data retention procedures were amended, data prior to this time has not been included.

The number of firearms and ammunition stolen is as follows:

	Firearms	Ammunition
2014 (to end Jul)	2	151
2013	4	391
2012	6	99
2011	5	391

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 and the years they were 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