



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building (01/D/06)
Whitehall
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United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2015/11154

Telephone: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
08 January 2016

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2015 requesting the following information:

“Under the Freedom of Information Act, please confirm how many pieces of Treat Official correspondence you have received in 2015, 2014 and 2013.

For each year please breakdown the number of correspondence responded to within 5 working days, 10 working days, 15 working and 15+days”

I am treating your correspondence 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 information is held in relation to the first part of your request.

The Parliamentary Branch of the Ministry of Defence allocates correspondence received centrally to lead policy branches within the MOD for an official to respond. The following figures show all Treat Official correspondence received by the Parliamentary Branch during the years specified in your request.

3304 pieces of Treat Official correspondence were received in 2015.

2168 pieces of Treat Official correspondence were received in 2014.

3192 pieces of Treat Official correspondence were received in 2013.

Given the volume of correspondence we have applied Section 12 of the Act to the second part of your request which 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 then locating, retrieving, and extracting the information.

It is not possible to complete the extraction of this information within the cost limit specified within the FOIA. I am therefore applying Section 12 of the Act to the second part of your request.

If you wish, you may refine your request in order to bring the cost of determining whether the Department holds relevant information, locating, retrieving and extracting it, below the appropriate limit.

I must also inform you that if you refine your request it may be that the Department does not hold the information or that it may be subject to one or more of the exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act.

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.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,

Top Office Group Business Manager