



Ministry  
of Defence

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22 April 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 20 March 2015 in which you requested the following information:

*"I'm willing to scale back my request to just Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the past three years."*

This was in a follow on request from the one you submitted on 19 February in which you asked for the following information:

*"How many unexploded ordnances were dealt with by the Royal Navy and Royal Army in Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the past five years? (please break down by year, force i.e. dealt with by Army or Navy general location e.g. Jersey, Wales, England)  
How many unexploded ordnances were dealt with by the Royal Navy and Royal Army outside of the UK over the past five years? (please break down by year, country and force).  
I'd really appreciate it if you could break down the above requests into general type of ordnance e.g. anti-aircraft rounds."*

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 some information on the subject you have requested. The total number of tasks conducted in the Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the calendar years 2012 to 2014 were as follows:

**Conventional Munitions Disposal – 5402.**

2012 – 1721 tasks.  
2013 – 1750 tasks.  
2014 – 1927 tasks.

**Improvised Explosive Devices – 1864.**

2012 – 569 tasks.  
2013 – 695 tasks.  
2014 – 600 tasks.

Conventional Munitions Disposal tasks consist of World War Two bombs or munitions such as small arms and grenades. Improvised Explosive Device tasks are normally non-military improvised devices created to cause injury or death. Around 25% of Conventional Munitions Disposal and about 50% of Improvised Explosive Device tasks did not require destruction as they had already been made safe or were false alarms.

I should explain that the lead for the response to explosive ordnance in the UK rests with the Home Office and civilian Police forces. The Ministry of Defence will respond to requests for assistance received from these authorities.

I will not be able to provide a split between those tasks undertaken by the Navy and Army without exceeding the appropriate 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, then locating, retrieving and extracting it. To explain further, there were in excess 7,300 taskings during the period you have stipulated. To comply with your request would require a physical check of the tasking log for each incident that has occurred which it is estimated would take five minutes each. These tasking logs are not on a database and cannot be interrogated easily.

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://ico.gov.uk>.

Please quote the reference number above in any future communication.

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat