



Ministry
of Defence

DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment & ISTAR)

Maple 0a
#2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



[Redacted]

Your References:

Via:
request-267557-4766eae@whatdotheyknow.com

Our References:
FOI2015/04265

Date: 5 June 2015

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 11th May 2015 requesting the following further information:

I am a collector of Kukri (Khukuri) knives and I make this request not only for my own interest but for the interest of those who collect kukri knives the world over. My request is to please provide information in an electronic readable form (these could be simple scans) of the history of the official British Army endorsed kukri (khukuri) knife. We would be interested in details of official suppliers of these knives over history and what the British Army specifications or requirements were for these knives as supplied and how this evolved over time, such as the type of steel to be used, the hardness of the cutting edge and anything relevant to its performance for use as a weapon or any other function.

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 that some information in scope of your request is held. Section 21 has been applied to the information, it is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest.

Under Section 21 (Information Reasonably Assessable to the Applicant by Other Means) I suggest you look at the Army website at <http://www.army.mod.uk/infantry/regiments/30364.aspx> . The Gurkha museum in Winchester also has historic information and you can access their site at <http://www.thegurkhamuseum.co.uk/> .

The current contract is held by Rasaili Khukuri Industry, Sunsari, Itahari. The kukri knife is made of spring steel, the scabbard is made of buffalo leather and the handle is made of brass with inlays of either hard wood or buffalo horn. The kothimora is a kukri which is specifically made for presentation purposes. The scabbard is made up of pure silver filigree with a velvet cover. The velvet displays the regiment colours, for example green for 7th Gurka Rifles, black for 10th Gurkha Rifles and red for the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. The blade is made of highly graded carbon steel. The handle is made of hard wood or buffalo horn, glued using a Nepali glue called Laha. The scabbard is made of pinewood with velvet and decorated with pure silver, it may have symbols of the Gurkha Regiment, the national bird of Nepal or various other symbols.

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

Defence Equipment & Support

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,

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