



Ministry
of Defence

DE&S Secretariat
Defence Equipment & Support
Maple 0a, #2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



Email: DESSEC-PolSecLE-JSC-WPNS@mod.uk

[REDACTED]

Our Reference:

Via:

[REDACTED]

FOI2015/09029

Date: 22 October 2015

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 15th October 2015 requesting the following information:

I was wondering whether you could provide details of what protection the ECBA and OSPREY armours provide when worn.

I know that both of these have soft and hard armour elements - would it be possible to provide the protection that these elements provide individually and when worn together.

i.e. is the soft armour rated to an NIJ or HOSDB level such as IIIa - able to stop up to a certain calibre.

The hard plates I presume are designed to stop rifle rounds - are these rated?

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemption provided for at section 26 (Defence of the British Islands and Colonies/Armed Forces) of the FOIA and cannot be released.

Section 26 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 26(1)(b) has been applied to some of the information because it covers information that would prejudice or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of any relevant force. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing information that could put the physical safety of UK troops at risk. It is for these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

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I can confirm that the soft armour protection from fragmentation is assessed against STANAG 2920 Addition 2 and the HOSBD Body Armour Standards for UK Police (2007) Part 1.

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,

DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment & ISTAR)