



Ministry
of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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Ref: FOI2015/10904

18 December 2015

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email of 30 November 2015 requesting the following information:

*“What percentage of meals served to UK soldiers (whether based here or abroad) now have to be halal-slaughtered.
If possible please give the latest figures alongside the figures for the past 5 years (if they exist)
Also who supplies your halal meat?”*

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 some information in scope of your request is held. I have addressed each question below.

What percentage of meals served to UK soldiers (whether based here or abroad) now have to be halal-slaughtered?

None, however, halal meals can be provided for those whose dietary or religious beliefs require them.

The latest figures alongside the figures for the past 5 years and who supplies your halal meat?

MOD personnel in the UK and permanent bases overseas are served through a number of catering, retail, leisure and other multi-activity contracts. Halal meat is purchased under these arrangements but information on the volume procured or Contractors it is sourced from is not held by the MOD.

Armed Forces personnel serving on operations, exercises and HM ships and submarines, are catered for under a single food supply contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions Ltd (PFS). The PFS contract includes the provision of Operational Ration Packs (ORPs). Individual 24 hour ORPs are available in 60 different menus, of which 10 are halal. Details of the percentages of halal meat provided to personnel on operations over the last five years are shown at Annex A, information cannot be broken down by year.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that all food procured for MOD personnel must comply with MOD food quality standards. These standards comply with all UK and EU production standards, Farm Assurance or equivalent. This includes the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which covers halal slaughter.

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 DIO Secretariat 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,

DIO Secretariat