



Ministry  
of Defence

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09 February 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 January 2016, requesting the following information:

*In response to a written parliamentary question (<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-16/20460>) the MOD listed the details of its nine official animal mascots.*

- 1. I'd like to ask how much money was spent on the animals in total in 2015.*
- 2. If possible, I'd like this figure broken down to show how much was spent per animal.*
- 3. I'd also like to ask for an indication of what the money was spent on.*
- 4. How old is each mascot? When did they start in their roles as mascots?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Ministry of Defence. Information related to the cost of maintaining these animals is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the main elements of expenditure will be food, bedding and accommodation. Information relating to some of the mascots may be found on the British Army website <http://www.army.mod.uk>.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,