



# Ministry of Defence

Defence Resources Secretariat  
Ministry of Defence  
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Reference: **FOI2015/05692**

[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Date: **9 September 2015**

Dear [REDACTED],

Your correspondence dated 26 June 2015 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

*Please would you let me know in writing if you hold information of the following description:*

*Communications between:*

*i) the MoD and DFID*

*ii) the MoD and the Treasury*

*about the MoD's £5 million annual target for Official Development Assistance.*

*Please can I see the information.*

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Section 35(1)(a) (Formulation or development of Government Policy) and Section 35(1)(b) (Ministerial Communications) have been applied to the information because the document was sent between ministers of the crown and relates to ministerial business which contains information that would prejudice, or is likely to prejudice the formulation and development of Government policy. Section 35 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.

Under Section 16 of the FOIA, public authorities are required to provide advice and assistance while processing FOI requests, and I have therefore included some additional information below that you may find useful.

The MOD's assessment of what it spends annually in areas that are ODA eligible, such as parts of conflict prevention and security sector reform is £5m. However, this can vary from year to year since it relates in part to Humanitarian Assistance activities. The £5m forecast does not therefore drive Defence activity.

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 would prejudice the development of Government policy, and for these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would prejudice".

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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Resources Secretariat