



Ministry of Defence Police

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Date: 4 June 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: MOLLE BODY ARMOUR.

I acknowledge receipt of your e-mail of 21 May 2015, which we are treating as request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your e-mail of 21 May 2015, you requested the following information:

- 1. How many officers have made written complaints about the molle body armour?*
- 2. what were these complaints about?*
- 3. What steps has the MDP taken to relieve these issues?*
- 4. What trial on the new body armour was carried out before issue, by whom and for what period?*
- 5. What is the weight difference between the old and new system with and without the weights?*
- 6. What support systems are in place for officers who have began to experience upper and lower back pain from wearing the new body armour?*
- 7. Who should officers report any issues regarding back pain and the new body armour to?*

8. *what steps are the MDP taking to monitor the deployment of the new body armour to ensure it is fit for purpose and not causing health issues?*

9. *What options are open to officers experiencing back pain from the use of the body armour?*

A search for information has now been completed and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held:

1. *How many officers have made written complaints about the molle body armour?*

To date the Force has received 14 defect reports concerning the new Molle body armour.

2. *what were these complaints about?*

Causing discomfort/pain to back shoulders.

3. *What steps has the MDP taken to relieve these issues?*

If any officer experiences problems with the armour they are offered a visit to HQ to be re-measured and given advice on how to wear the armour and alternative methods of how to deploy. The carrier can be modified to aid comfort and this is being looked at.

4. *What trial on the new body armour was carried out before issue, by whom and for what period?*

The Molle body armour was not subject to a trial conducted by MDP.

5. *What is the weight difference between the old and new system with and without the weights?*

	Size 3C Old Armour	Size 3C New Armour MOLLE
Hard Armour Plates	2.1kg	1.9kg
Soft Armour with Carrier	3.1kg	3.9kg

Summary:

New hard armour plate is 0.2Kg lighter than the old one, making a total weight saving of 0.4kg.

New soft armour is 0.8kg heavier, this is because they conform to the 2007 HOSDB standard not the 2003 standard, also there is an 8% increase in body coverage and that it has the MOLLE system on it, the carrier is therefore an equipment vest as well.

6. *What support systems are in place for officers who have begun to experience upper and lower back pain from wearing the new body armour?*

See response to question 3 above.

7. Who should officers report any issues regarding back pain and the new body armour to?

See response to question 3 above. Any officer experiencing back pain associated with Molle body armour should report it, in writing, to their supervisor immediately.

8. What steps are the MDP taking to monitor the deployment of the new body armour to ensure it is fit for purpose and not causing health issues?

See response to question 3 above

9. What options are open to officers experiencing back pain from the use of the body armour?

See response to question 3 above

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 Team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB (email 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 the 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

