



Ministry of Defence

Defence Resources Secretariat
Ministry of Defence
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Reference: **FOI2014/08279**

[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Date: **13 January 2015**

Dear [REDACTED],

Your correspondence dated 14 December 2014 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). You requested the following information:

Could you please notify me of the following sums:

- 1. The cost to the UK of the Iraq war from its commencement in 2003 to the present,*
- 2. The cost to the UK of the war in Afghanistan from its commencement in 2001 to the present.*

Please find below the information you requested.

1. The total Audited Cost of Operations in Iraq since 2003, inclusive of non-recoverable VAT at Current Prices is £8,164.2 million.
2. The total Audited Cost of Operations in Afghanistan for 2001/2002 to 2013/14, inclusive of non-recoverable VAT at Current Prices is £21,315.7 million.

These figures are for the Net Additional Cost of UK Military Operations (NACMO) and Peacekeeping Programme Expenditure. The totals include Resource Departmental Expenditure Limits (RDEL), Capital Departmental Expenditure Limits (CDEL) and Annually Managed Expenditure (AME).

The NACMO represent the costs over and above those that would have been incurred regardless of any overseas operations taking place (eg, pay and pensions), offset by savings in the Defence programme arising from the deployment of forces to theatre. Offsetting costs are those such as reductions in the training commitment arising from the cancellation of, or reduced participation in, military exercises.

The NACMO have mainly been funded by the Treasury's Special Reserve since 2001-02, rather than through the Defence core programme. This methodology is used by the Treasury to determine what the department can claim back from the Reserve. The expenditure is audited, on an annual basis, by the National Audit Office.

I can confirm that the Department holds information on the Audited Cost of Operations in Afghanistan for 2014/15. The information is exempt under Section 22 of the FOIA because the information is intended for publication at a future date.

The information you requested will be published in the MOD Annual Reports and Accounts 2014-2015 which, when published, will be available via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications>

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.gov.uk>.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Resources Secretariat