



Email | \_\_\_\_\_

Our ref: FOI 2015/07377

Your ref:

Date: 23 September 2015

Dear | \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your email of 24 August 2015 in which you requested the following information:

“Request 1: Details of all research studies commissioned by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) between July 2013 and July 2015, including title, date the study was commissioned, who was commissioned to carry out the study, and when and where the results were published.

Request 2: A summary of how many research studies were carried out or commissioned by the Dstl between July 2013 and July 2015, and how many remain unpublished as of July 2015.

Request 3: A statement of how complete the Dstl's publicly available list of research studies [1] is, by summarizing the details of all research studies that have been commissioned but do not appear on the list.

[1] Dstl's published research on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) ([bit.ly/dstlRandD](http://bit.ly/dstlRandD)), last accessed August 24th 2015.”

We can confirm that your correspondence is being treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), and we can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held. However, we have to advise you that in accordance with Section 12 “Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit”, we will be unable to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

We can also confirm it has been calculated that to provide all of the information you have requested would take one person 160 working days to complete.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it helpful to understand that although we hold information that is within the scope of your request, this is not all held centrally on a single database due to the many categories and aspects of research in which Dstl is involved. A brief overview of these can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dstls-areas-of-work-programmes-and-project-portfolios>. To identify the information that you have requested, we would need to review the project-specific information relating to the individual projects across the multitude of areas in which work programmes are conducted to create the data to address your requests. It may help to explain that in any one financial year Dstl can have approximately 1000 projects running across the organisation.

To assist us to identify the information you require, it would be helpful if you could reduce and refine your request. We would suggest that a request that is more targeted to a specific area of research rather than "all research studies" and a specific time period would be more likely to enable us to be able to provide you with the information you require.

Additionally, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that wherever possible Dstl publishes the results of its research studies in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. Therefore, this information can be identified via the use of routine scientific search engines. However, given the nature of some of the research undertaken, there will be security, and/or commercial, concerns that may prevent publication in the open literature.

Under the Government transparency agenda and to support the careers of its staff, Dstl has a proactive scheme to identify and publish its research wherever possible within the constraints of national security. The list referenced in your request at [1] represents those reports that are published in the open peer-reviewed literature. Defence reporter (also available on the internet) provides the publically releasable bibliographic information of research reports commissioned and conducted by Dstl.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, 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](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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Dstl Secretariat