



**Ministry
of Defence**

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Ref: FOI2014/ 05295

17 October 2014

Dear

Thank you for your email of 19 September 2014 requesting the following information:

"I am writing to request an internal review of Ministry of Defence's handling of my FOI request 'British military small arms lost in Iraq and Afghanistan'.

I think it is in the National Interest to understand how many small arms were lost in our recent conflict zones.

If the size of the task is too great, then please consider the more manageable of the two - possibly Afghanistan."

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

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

Information is held for Afghanistan but data prior to 2011 cannot be relied upon as it was compiled before the formation of the Service Police Crime Bureau (SPCB). Similarly, before the formation of the Bureau, the number of stolen pistols and rifles was not recorded centrally. The data for the period from 2002 to 2010 is detailed below.

YEAR	PISTOL		RIFLE	
	Lost	Stolen	Lost	Stolen
2002	0		0	
2003	0		4	
2004	1		0	
2005	0		1	
2006	3		7	
2007	13		4	
2008	6		1	
2009	0		1	
2010	4		4	

Data for 2011 onwards is held centrally and is reproduced in the following table. The latest data available at this time is up to 21 Aug 2014. Under Section 16 of the FOIA (advice and assistance), I should explain that although the Royal Military Police (RMP) recording of losses / recoveries of arms and ammunition policy was implemented in 2011, the data cannot be considered comprehensive as it will only contain that information which has been reported to the RMP.

YEAR	PISTOL		RIFLE	
	Lost	Stolen	Lost	Stolen
2011	3	2	2	2
2012	5	1	1	1
2013	5	0	9	1
2014 (to 21 Aug)	0	0	1	0

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>.

Yours sincerely,

PJHQ J8 Secretariat / FOI