



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

East and West Africa Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

30 July 2015

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0651-15**

Thank you for your email of 30 June 2015 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You made a request for the following information:

*Arms suppliers - American, Latin American, EU, Russian or Chinese - to the Nigerian armed forces from 2010 to date.*

We interpreted your request to mean “names and details of arms suppliers – American, Latin American, EU, Russian or Chinese – to the Nigerian armed forces from 2010 to date”.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold some information falling within your request. We do not hold relevant information on non-UK arms suppliers. We are responding based on the information that we hold on UK arms suppliers.

However, please be advised that the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) is the licensing authority for strategic exports from the UK. The role of the FCO, alongside other governmental advisers, is to provide advice on export licence applications to BIS. As such, BIS are responsible for taking the decision on whether to approve or refuse export licences. In general, we do not hold information about exports themselves. The FCO only holds partial information about export licences applied for and the outcomes of those applications.

Some of the information the FCO holds has been withheld under section 21 (information accessible to the applicant by other means) of the FOIA which states that a public authority is not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to the applicant.

Some of the information you have requested is published Annual and Quarterly reports on Strategic Export Controls in PDFs available on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/strategic-export-controls-licensing-data>.

The information published covers export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (eg Military or non-Military use) and a summary goods description of the items covered by these licences. Data published on export licences is available up to 31 March 2015.

Additionally you can download your own bespoke annual spreadsheets for information published up to 31 March 2015, via the Strategic Export Controls: Reports and Statistics website at:

<https://www.exportcontroldb.bis.gov.uk/sdb/fox/sdb/SDBHOME>)

by registering to use the website tools.

Export licences issued, refused or revoked in the period 1 April to 30 June 2015 are due to be published in October 2015.

Please contact the Department for Business Innovation & Skills, who own this website, for further details on when this information will be published. Further information about the export licence process can be found at BIS' website at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/export-control-organisation>

Some of the information you requested is exempt under section 41 (information provided in confidence) of the FOIA, as the information was provided in confidence. The successful working of British diplomacy depends upon sources being able to freely provide information in confidence without fear that this will be made public. Exemptions under Section 41 of the FOIA do not require the application of a public interest test.

Some licensing information that the FCO holds has been withheld under Section 43(2) (commercial interests) of the FOIA as it consists of commercially sensitive information and could be used by competitors who might seek to undercut these exporters in future deals in this market. It is important to remember that these exporters behaved responsibly by applying for export licences and that they were engaged in legitimate commercial transactions. It would therefore be wrong to risk harm to their future business transactions. We judge that, in the present case, the public interest in disclosing this information is outweighed by the commercial confidentiality of this information.

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, we may now publish the response on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) in the [FOI releases](#) section. All personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

Yours sincerely,

**East and West Africa Department**



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.