



Ministry  
of Defence

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Dear

Thank you for your email of 11 December 2014 requesting the following information:

*"I have the following requests about the bottled drinking water supplied to HM armed forces in Kandahar, Afghanistan for the last few years.*

*I understand that bottled water was no longer imported into Afghanistan from abroad a few years ago and instead it was sourced from bore wells on site at Kandahar airfield and then it was treated by a process of Reverse Osmosis, bottled and then distributed.*

*Firstly, can you please confirm that the drinking water was sourced from on site at Kandahar airfield.*

*Secondly, what process was used to purify it?*

*Thirdly, which nations or organisations standards were applied to the quality of the drinking water? ie, US,UK,NATO,etc.*

*Finally, could you please send me a copy of the standard that was applied."*

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

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

At Kandahar Airfield the provision of water was a US responsibility and bottled drinking water used by UK Forces was sourced from a commercial supplier employed by the NATO Support Agency. Information on purification methods is not held by the UK Ministry of Defence.

Separately, from around 2008 a borehole at Camp Bastion was used to supply drinking water. Purification of the water was undertaken to UK standard, a copy of which is available in the public domain at the following link:

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2007/2785/pdfs/ukxi\\_20072785\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2007/2785/pdfs/ukxi_20072785_en.pdf)

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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd 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.

PJHQ J8 Secretariat