



Ministry of Defence

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Reference: **FOI2016/01523**

[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Date: **29 February 2016**

Dear [REDACTED],

Your correspondence dated 2 February 2016 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

Table 2.3 of The Summer Budget 2015, HC264, (page 77) provides the following departmental expenditure limits for defence:

Resource del: 2015/16 £28.1Bn

Capital del: 2015/16 £6.8Bn

Table 2.3 of The Autumn Budget 2015, Cm 9162, (page 80) provides the following departmental expenditure limits for defence:

Resource del: 2015/16 £27.2Bn

Capital del: 2015/16 £7.1Bn

Can I ask for an explanation for the difference between the Summer budget and the Autumn statement?

Please find below the information you requested.

The Autumn Statement provides an update on the Summer Budget based on latest forecast and other drawdowns as agreed during the Spending Review.

The Summer Budget 2015 (HC 264) figure for MOD reflects the forecasted expenditure as presented in the Main Estimates (£34.9bn). For the 2015-16 year, the Autumn Statement (Cm 9162) brings Ministry of Defence back to the baseline (£34.3bn).

The budget baseline is the Estimate figure after removing one off costs such as reserve claims for a specific purpose which will not be repeated and also for time limited costs which have expired, such as costs for specific projects which have been completed. It is this baseline against which the future real growth is measured.

The footnotes within the referenced tables explains this further. Please see extracts from the tables below:

NOTE 3 Table 2.3 Summer Budget 2015: The defence budget for 2015-16 reflects the likely initial drawdown of funding from the Special Reserve for the net additional cost of military operations at Main Estimates.

NOTE 2 Table 2.1 Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015 : As at all Spending Reviews, baseline exclude one-off and time-limited expenditure. Cumulative real growth is calculated to 2019-20 from the 2015-16 baseline.

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.org.uk>.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Resources Secretariat