



Ministry  
of Defence

[REDACTED]  
DE&S Policy Secretariat Air 1a

Defence Equipment and Support  
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Bristol BS34 8JH

Email: [DESSec-FOI@mod.uk](mailto:DESSec-FOI@mod.uk)



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By Email:

[REDACTED]

Your Reference:

Our Reference:  
FOI 2015/03014  
Date:  
23 April 2015

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Dear [REDACTED],

I wrote to you on 30 March 2015 regarding your request for information on all military Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS).

In your original request, dated 16 February 2015, you asked for the following information:

***'Would it be possible to provide a list of all Unmanned Ariel Systems that the UK uses, their supplier and a small description of what missions they are usually used for please? Furthermore would it be possible to provide a table from 2013-14 to 2019-20 on the future expected expenditure on all Unmanned Ariel Systems each year please.'***

On 16 March 2015, you clarified your request as follows:

***'I'd like to confirm that my request refers to both UAS/RPAS operated by the MOD and not of other UK Government Departments.'***

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found attached, however some of it falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemption provided for at Section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the FOI Act, and has been withheld.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and, as such, is subject to public interest testing. This means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 43 (2) has been applied to some of the information (future expenditure on all military UAS from Financial Year (FY) 2015-16 – 2019-20) because disclosure has the potential to adversely affect the MOD's ability to negotiate with its suppliers. In this case the public interest test concluded that although release would promote transparency and greater awareness of public expenditure, overall there is a greater public interest in withholding the information, given that disclosure would be likely to materially damage the MOD's ability to negotiate and obtain value for money in future commercial negotiations. For this reason I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exemption information at the lower level of 'would be likely to', rather than the higher level of 'would'.

The total spend on military UAS for Financial Year (FY) 2014-15 is not yet available due to the time required to reconcile accounts for that period, however the total spend for FY 2013-14 has been provided. Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that audited expenditure totals for FY 2014-15 are predicted to be available around September 2015.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

  
**DE&S Policy Secretariat Air 1a**