



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Ref. FOI2016/04106

[REDACTED]

10 May 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 11 April requesting:

....all information you hold concerning your access to, and use of, non-lethal and less than lethal weapons, including but not necessarily exclusively, Voice to Skull technology, Ultra Sound Apparatus, EMF, Microwave, RFD, Directed Energy and Psychotropic Electronic devices.

As you will be aware from my acknowledgement of 18 April, I am treating this as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'). [REDACTED]

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because many different areas within the MOD hold information on weapons and to locate, retrieve, extract all information in scope of your request would take significantly longer than 3.5 working days.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Unfortunately, given the number of areas in the MOD that hold information on weapons it is not possible for me to suggest a refinement to your request that would bring the cost of compliance under the limit.

Under Section 16 of the Act, the MOD is required to provide advice and assistance. Consequently, I have provided a link below to the 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review which sets out the role of the MOD and provides some detail on weaponry.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/478933/52309_Cm_9161_NSS_SD_Review_web_only.pdf

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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**, 2nd 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>.

Yours sincerely,

Air Command Secretariat