



Ministry of Defence

Defence Resources Secretariat
Ministry of Defence
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Reference: **FOI2015/06776**

[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Date: **23 September 2015**

Dear [REDACTED],

Your correspondence dated 29 July 2015 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

- a) I would like to know if spending that is currently counted towards the UK Defence spending target of 2% of GDP is in part funded by spending from the Department for International Development.*
- b) I would like to know this information for the period of 2013-2014*
- c) If this information is available, I would like a breakdown of what the funds from the Department for International Development that have been counted towards this Defence spending target have been spent on as part of the Defence budget. I would like this in either paper or portable document format (PDF).*

Question a): Some spending from the Department for International Development (DfID) budget is counted as UK Defence spending, in line with NATO guidelines. This is usually when DfID have requested Armed Forces' support to achieve their departmental objectives

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of questions b) and c) is held.

Section 35(1)(a) (Formulation or development of Government Policy) has been applied to the information because the information would prejudice, or is likely to prejudice the formulation and development of Government policy. Section 35 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing information that would prejudice the development of Government policy, and for these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would prejudice".

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 CIQ-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