



Ministry
of Defence



[REDACTED]
DE&S Secretariat (LD & SE)

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Defence Equipment & Support
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26 September 2017
Our Reference: FOI2017/08251

[REDACTED]
Thank you for your email dated 26 August 2017. You asked:

Please can you send the departmental policy and the single service policies on heritage with emphasis on military museums?

I am treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). 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.

It might be helpful if I first explained that any surplus Defence equipment has potentially significant intrinsic value, and the first priority for both the MOD and HM Treasury will be to ensure that the department achieves the best return to the taxpayer.

Gifting is exceptional and is only considered when there are significant benefits accruing to defence or the wider UK Government.

Nevertheless, MOD gifting policy recognises that surplus equipment can have a heritage value and that is why gifting is permitted to National museums sponsored by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport which includes the Imperial War Museum; the principal MOD-sponsored museums which are the National Museum of the Royal Navy, the National Army Museum and the Royal Air Force Museum; Regimental and Corps Museums and Public authorities who have an affiliation with the Services or the MOD.

The Defence Equipment Sales Authority, part of MOD, disposes of Defence equipment that is surplus to requirement. This includes anything from large equipments such as warships, tanks and aircraft to smaller assets such as clothing and textiles, military spares, scrap metal and office/IT equipment. Most surplus equipment is sold through a series of competitively awarded

marketing agreements with specialist contractors and any private museums, charities or individual collectors, for instance, will have the opportunity to purchase surplus MOD assets.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours Sincerely,


DE&S Secretariat