



Ministry
of Defence Police

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[REDACTED]
By email – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our Ref: eCase: FOI2017/07922 RFI: 226/17
Date: 03 October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: POLICE INFORMANTS

I refer to your email dated 10 August 2017 which was acknowledged on the 11 August 2017

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

In your email you requested the following information:

“First part:

For the financial years 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and available data for 2017/2018, I would like to know how much money the police force has paid out to informants. Please provide a breakdown for each financial year.

Second part:

If possible and if easily retrievable, please indicate how much the highest paid informant has received from the police force. ”

The Ministry of Defence Police holds information in relation to you request. In response to question one we do not hold the information in the format requested however we are able to provide the information by calender year.

Calendar Year	Amount paid to informants £
2011	202
2012	870
2013	0.00
2014	2210
2015	4077
2016	5920

Information relating to 2017 and question two, is withheld under Section 30(2) Investigations and Proceedings, Section 30 (2) is a class based exemption. I have conducted a Public Interest Test (PIT) and concluded that the balance favours exempting the information from release. Section 30(2) (investigations) applies because the release of information would likely to be prejudicial to both the process and the individuals concerned. MDP understands the importance of releasing information that is in the public interest, however on balance it has decided to withhold the information as it's release could jeopardise investigations by damaging working relationships with current informers. Informants play a vital role in assisting the police, and there relationship is based very much on trust and the expectation of complete confidentiality, MOD would not disclose information which could compromise its tactics.

Additionally, the Ministry of Defence Police can neither confirm nor deny that they hold any other information relevant to the whole of your request by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 23(5) Information relating to security bodies

Section 24(2) National Security

Section 23 is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test.

Section 24(2) is a qualified prejudiced based exemption, there is a requirement for us to evidence harm confirming or denying information is held and also consider the public interest.

Section 24(2) is engaged because to confirm or deny whether the Ministry of Defence Police hold any additional information would allow inferences to be made about the nature and extent of national security related activities which may or may not take place. This could enable terrorist groups to take steps to avoid detection, and as such, confirmation or denial would be damaging to national security.

This should not be taken as conclusive evidence that any information that would meet your request exists or does not exist.

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

MDP Sec Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office