



Ministry of Defence

Our Reference: FOI2017/05345

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 721 89000

E-mail: DSR-Secretariatoffice@mod.uk

8 June 2017

Thank you for your email dated 9 May 2017 requesting the following information:

"In 2016-17, how many firearms/other ammunition owned by the MOD have gone missing/unaccounted for/ reported stolen? Please break down by the type of ammunition/weapon, where it was taken from, and any circumstances you can provide (e.g. taken after a break-in, etc.) Please state if any of the items were later recovered"

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested is attached to the email response, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of qualified exemptions provided for at Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 31 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.

Section 31 has been applied because releasing details of weapon thefts/losses, broken down by year, type and specifically where it was taken from could be prejudicial to the prevention and detection of crime. When a public interest test was conducted relating to the use of this section, it was deemed that the balance of public interest lay against the release of location for the aforementioned reasons.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that, where possible, information has been attributed against individual Commands. Where ammunition has been recovered we are unable to cross reference with those reported lost/ stolen, due to the level of detail recorded. The estimated values provided are correct as of 26 May 2017.

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, Ground 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, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Directorate of Security & Resilience

LOSS/ THEFT STATISTICS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/ 2017

Lost Ammunition					
	5.56mm Live	5.56mm Blank	7.62 4AP/1T	7.62 4B1T	9mm Live
Price (each)	£0.26	£0.27	£0.77	£0.62	£0.12
Army	42				24
RAF	5				15
Navy	1			405	
DE&S			105		
Total	£12.48		£80.85	£251.10	£4.68

Stolen Ammunition					
	5.56mm Live	5.56mm Blank	7.62mm Live	7.62 Blank	9mm Live
Army	30	300			3
RAF	8				
Total	£9.88	£81.00			£0.36

Lost/ Stolen In-Use Firearms						
	Owner	Lost	Stolen	Recovered	Comment(s)	Value (£)
GLOCK 17 Pistol	Army	1			Lost on Ops	£202.82
H&K MP5	MOD Police	1			Lost at sea (fell overboard)	£964.29
0.22 Anschutz Biathlon Rifle	Army		3		Stolen from vehicle in Sweden.	Unknown
.22 Bolt Action Biathlon Rifle	Army		4		Stolen from vehicle in Sweden.	Unknown
L85A2 (SA80)	Army	1			Lost in water during exercise in Brunei	£588.28