



Ministry  
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2018/01993/22/01

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5 April 2018

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email/letter of 8 February in which you requested the following information:

*"I would be grateful if you would provide the following information:*

- 1 *The annual cost to the UK of stationing a brigade in Estonia*
- 2 *The annual cost to the UK of stationing armed forces in Germany*
- 3 *The % of GDP spent on defence by Germany and Estonia."*

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 some of the information in scope of your request is held and is attached.

The cost of stationing personnel in Estonia and Germany for this current financial year is as follows:

Country	£M
Estonia	41
Germany	176

Figures rounded to the nearest £M

Under section 16 of the FOIA (advice and assistance), I should advise that I have provided the projected costs for the 2017/2018 financial year for both Estonia and Germany as the deployment to Estonia only commenced in April 2017. I should also advise that we have not deployed a Brigade to Estonia. There are approximately 800 personnel currently deployed in Estonia, the bulk of which are The Royal Welsh.

The information requested at question 3 is withheld under section 21 of the FOIA (information accessible elsewhere) as you can request this information from the countries concerned. This information may also be available via the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). I believe there has also been various media reports and academic research papers online that may shed light on the relative levels of Defence spending of NATO partners.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. Following this, 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](mailto: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,

Disclosure and Litigation Leader