



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2018/08731/80676/18/4

E-mail: { HYPERLINK "mailto:ArmySec-Group@mod.uk" }

Website: www.army.mod.uk

[REDACTED]

E-mail address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

19 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 2 July in which you requested the following information:

"Please let me know what equipment you have for fighting forest fires or any serious high level fire. For instance, it is well known that you have a large number of C-130 Hercules but do you have the kit to use these as water bombers, the MAFFS or MAFFS-2 kit or similar?"

Please provide documents which would be able to answer that, and the following questions:

Do you have access to borrow such equipment from other air forces or agencies?

Do you have helicopter equivalent equipment, e.g. the cutely named "bambi buckets"?

Do you have the Simplex SkyCannon add-on which could be underslung to your Pumas?

Do you have pilots at a reasonable standard of training and readiness to use the above?

Do you have agreements or plans for how the cost of using the above would be defrayed?"

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

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that most of the information you requested is not held by the Ministry of Defence. The only questions to which the answer is yes, is in relation to "Bambi Buckets" where Bell 212 helicopters in Brunei and the Griffin HAR2 (Bell 412) in Cyprus have such equipment. In these locations the pilots are trained in the use of the equipment concerned.

Under section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) the Royal Air Force does not have MAFFS in its C-130s. It does not, therefore, have access to the equipment and has no plans to buy, hire or borrow it.

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 {

HYPERLINK "mailto: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 { HYPERLINK "https://ico.org.uk/" [}](https://ico.org.uk/).

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure and Litigation Leader