



# Ministry of Defence

Secretariat  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
Kingston Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
B75 7RL

E-mail: [diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk](mailto:diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/DIO](http://www.gov.uk/DIO)

Ref. EIR 2018/ 06236

31 May 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 8 May 2018 requesting the following information:

- 1. What is the cost to the Department of weed management programmes in total and, separately, the cost of herbicides and specifically glyphosate products in the treatment of weeds on the MOD and armed forces estate?*
- 2. What assessment has the Department made regarding the costs for using alternative methods to glyphosate products in the treatment of weeds on the MOD and armed forces estate?*
- 3. What assessment has the Department made regarding the a) CO2 output, b) the implications for operator, bystander and environmental safety, and c) the implications for weed populations, their size and appearance, from alternative methods to glyphosate products in the treatment of weeds on the MOD and armed forces estate?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

In relation to question 1 of your request, under Section 16 of the FOIA (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that weed management across the Defence estate is undertaken by our contractors as 'grounds maintenance'. Within the scope of the contract, the choice of weed management lies with the contractors; taking into account UK legislation, codes of practice and industry best practice. Wherever possible the use of chemicals such as herbicide or fertiliser is discouraged where other reasonable alternatives exist.

In relation to questions 2 and 3 of your request, no such financial assessments have been carried out and this information will not be held by another public body on behalf of the MOD.

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.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing 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,

DIO Secretariat