



Ministry of Defence

Secretariat
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09 March 2018

Ref. FOI2018/01142

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 23 January 2018 requesting the following information:

1. *"Which departments and institutions which are within your competence use public money for animal based foods?"*
2. *Do you use catering contractors or manage their own in-house caterings services?*
3. *What is the annual value and volume of animal based food sourced (please break this down by meat, dairy, eggs) by your department?*
4. *Do you use Organic meat, dairy or eggs? If so how much?*
5. *Do you have a cage free egg policy when purchasing products containing eggs?*
6. *What national rules / guidelines apply to you when using public money for animal based food?*
7. *What is the process used to procure animal based food? (Specific contracts, framework agreements or open market)*
8. *Do your tenders include animal welfare considerations? If yes, what are they?*
9. *Do you plan to increase the extent to which you include animal welfare considerations into your procurement processes? If not, why?*
10. *When purchasing food within these public institutions, how do you implement guidelines linked to nutrition or health?"*

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested is below:

In response to items 1 and 2, Armed Forces personnel in the UK and permanent bases overseas are primarily catered for through a number of Catering, Retail and Leisure (CRL) and other multi-activity contracts; currently some 80% of Armed Forces personnel are catered for under these arrangements. Armed Forces personnel not covered by CRL and other multi-activity contracts, and those serving on operations, UK overseas exercises and HM Ships and Submarines are catered for under a single food supply contract.

In response to item 3, contractors purchase approximately £100M of food a year. MOD does not hold information on the volume of animal based food sourced.

In response to item 4, MOD does not hold this information.

In response to items 5-6 all food procured for MOD personnel must comply with MOD food quality standards. These standards comply with all UK and EU production standards, Farm Assurance or equivalent. All MOD contracts delivered by our contractors are required to abide by the current mandated Government Buying Standards (GBS) and Catering Services. The GBS ask our contractors to comply with the MOD Joint Service Publication 456 found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/defence-catering-manual-jsp-456> and the Armed Forces Food Based Standards.

In response to item 7, the DIO procurement plan can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dio-procurement-plan-2017>

In response to items 8 and 9, all contractors supplying the MOD in the UK must abide by UK law including the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

In response to item 10, it is a requirement of the MOD that all Service Personnel are to have ready access to nutritionally balanced and healthy food at each establishment. The Menu Offer should be designed to incorporate the Armed Forces Food Based Standards based upon a selection of protein, carbohydrates, vegetables and sweet dishes as laid down in MOD Joint Service Publication 456 Part 2 volume 4 found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-service-publication-456-defence-catering-manual-volume-4-catering-retail-and-leisure>

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I can confirm that any information regarding the volume of animal based food and use of organic meat, dairy or eggs would be held directly by the soft facilities management services contract provider as is within their responsibility.

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,

DIO Secretariat