



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our Reference: FOI2018/10985

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26 September 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 29 August 2018 requesting the following information:

“Please provide the following information:

- 1. The number of Service Weapon thefts or losses in each of the last 5 calendar years (including 2018 to date if possible).*
- 2. For each Service Weapon theft/loss mentioned in your response to part 1 above:*
 - (a) A description of the type of weapon stolen/lost.*
 - (b) The geographic location of the weapon theft/loss (the name of the UK county or overseas country is fine).*
 - (c) The Unit responsible for the weapon at the time of the theft/loss.*

By "Service Weapon" I mean any service-issued firearm in use with the Regular or Reserve Forces of the Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, Royal Marines or MOD Police. It also includes any service-issued firearm in use by any of the MOD sponsored Cadet Forces.”

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 can be found below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of absolute exemptions provided for at Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible to the applicant) and qualified exemptions provided for at Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-3-july-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-10-july-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-07-august-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-released-by-mod-week-commencing-27-august-2018>

In addition to the above, in 2018, the following were reported, and remain, missing:

Type	Quantity	Reported by	Lost/Stolen
L85A2 – SA80	1	Army	Lost – British Army Training Unit Suffield, Canada
Pistol – Signal Flare	1	RAF	Stolen - Hampshire

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 the unit responsible 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 unit responsible for the aforementioned reasons.

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.gov.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