



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our Reference: FOI2019/01322

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27 February 2019

Dear ,

Thank you for your email dated 30 January 2019 requesting the following information:

"I request copy of all data pertaining to firearms and/or shotguns and/or ammunition, to include, but not limited to, grenade and rocket launchers, which have gone lost or missing in the UK since 1966 whilst they were under the ownership, or control, or possession of the UK police, or military, or other government authority."

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-5-december-2016>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-12-june-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-released-by-mod-week-commencing-14-january-2019>

In addition to the above, since 26 September 2018, the following firearm(s) and ammunition were reported, and remain, missing:

Type	Quantity	Reported by	Lost/Stolen
L85A2 – SA80	1	Army	Lost in deep water during exercise in Wales

Explosive munitions:

Type	Quantity	Lost/Stolen
4.6mm	20	Lost
5.56mm	5	Lost
9mm	17	Lost

The MOD takes the security of firearms and ammunition very seriously and have robust procedures to deter and prevent losses and thefts which are constantly reviewed. The majority of ammunition losses occur as a result of accidental loss during exercises or on operations.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that statistics are only available from 2011 onwards, as prior to this, records were not held centrally. In addition, MOD does not hold information for UK Police Forces or other government authorities and I would recommend you contact them directly.

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/location of loss or theft 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