



# Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Our Ref: FOI2017/08195

Telephone [MOD]: 020 7218 [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

14 September 2017

E-mail:  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 August 2017 requesting the following information:

*I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.*

*I understand my request will take twenty working days to process but I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt via [REDACTED]*

*Please note that I am only interested in information which was generated between 1 March 2017 and 1 August 2017.*

*Please note that the reference to the Department should be taken to include the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State's private office and the department's press and public relations team.*

*Please note that the reference to BBC programmes should include all of the BBC's output irrespective of whether its on TV or Radio or online and irrespective of whether its broadcast at home or abroad. It should also include content delivered via the BBC's website and online services.*

*1...During the aforementioned period did the Department complain in writing to the BBC about any of its news or current affairs coverage either on TV, radio or online.*

*2...If the answer is yes can you please provide a copy of this written complaint. Can you also provide copies of any subsequent correspondence and communications relating to the complaint. Please note that I am interested in receiving both sides of the correspondence and communications including emails.*

*3...During the aforementioned period did the Department complain in writing to the BBC about any other other BBC programme or any other BBC online content.*

*4...If the answer is yes can you please provide a copy of this written complaint. Can you also provide copies of any subsequent correspondence and communications relating to the complaint. Please note that I am interested in receiving both sides of the correspondence and communication.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate cost limit as specified in Section 12 of the FOI Act. The MOD is a large and devolved organisation and the information you have requested is not held centrally.

Section 12 of the FOIA does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if it is estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit for central government is set at 3.5 working days effort at a cost of £600 which represents the estimated cost of one person determining whether the department holds the information, in addition to locating, retrieving and extracting it.

It is not possible to complete such a wide ranging search within the cost limit specific within the Act. I am therefore applying Section 12 of the Act to your request.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it helpful to note that the Directorate of Defence Communications (DDC) is the central point for contact with national news outlets. You may wish to refine your request to cover this department and/or the Secretary of State's office as you mentioned both of these as part of your overall requirement. You should note that though DDC corresponds with the media on behalf of the MOD, the Armed Forces, and Arms Length Bodies have their own designated news teams all of which which may have corresponded with the BBC separately at a national or regional level.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.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 [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

DDC Secretariat Parliamentary