



Ministry of Defence

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

Our Ref: FOI2018/09362

Telephone [MOD]: 020 7218 [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

26 July 2018

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 16 July 2018 requesting the following information:

Please could you provide me with all letters sent by your department to the BBC Head of News or the News Editor of any BBC news programme, or any senior BBC employee since 01.04.2017 where there is a complaint in relation to the news coverage in any way. Please also provide me with copies of any responses?

Please could you provide me with all letters sent by your department to the Channel 4 News Head of News or the News Editor or any senior Channel 4 employee since 01.04.2017 where there is a complaint in relation to the news coverage in any way. Please also provide me with copies of any responses?

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 reduce the timeframe. 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 and Channel 4 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). 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

Yours sincerely,

DDC Secretariat Parliamentary