



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our Ref: FOI2019/00271

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30 January 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail of 7 January 2019 requesting the following information:

- 1) *"Please could the MOD provide me with copies of any documents from 1 August 2018 to 31 December 2018 that relate to the embedding of JOE and/or VICE journalists on these exercises in Oman and/or Norway?"*
- 2) *In particular, I expect the disclosure to include information about the travel and accommodation costs involved with the embedding,*
- 3) *the reasons why the MOD wanted journalists from these types of platforms to report on the exercises*
- 4) *and any comments about how the coverage could impact on recruitment."*

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

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does hold some information within the scope of your request.

For ease of reference, we will answer each of your points in turn.

In answer to part one of your request. Please find at the following link a copy of MOD's Greenbook. This document covers the practical arrangements for enabling correspondents to report on operations, including the Ministry of Defence's plans for representative numbers of correspondents to accompany British forces. It also sets out what editors can expect from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and what the MOD seeks from the media. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book>

In answer to part two, we are unable to provide the total cost that relate to the embedding of the journalist from JOE as the information has not been collated yet and is therefore not available. Regarding VICE the company paid for all expenses themselves, so no cost was incurred.

In answer to parts three and four of your request, I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds no recorded information that would provide an answer to this part of your request. Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held by the respected authority.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act advice and assistance you may wish to note that the MOD regularly offers multiple opportunities for media outlets to embed on Exercises which enables them to gain a better understanding of how the Armed Forces operate.

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 www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

DDC Secretariat Parliamentary