



Joint Forces Command
Northwood Headquarters
NORTHWOOD
Middlesex
HA6 3HP
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2019/03690

[redacted]

22 May 19

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email of 22 Mar 19 requesting the following information:

“Please could you provide the following information on the Scarus and Odette Army ESM systems:

1. *Any technical ingratiation regarding capabilities.*
2. *Date they entered service.*
3. *Planned date of retirement.*
4. *Names and any information regarding capabilities of any future planned prepayments.*
5. *Numbers of each piece in active service/use.*
6. *Any information linked to their original purchase.”*

We wrote to you in Apr to inform you that the MOD holds information related to your request, but that we believe that some of the information falls within the scope of Sections 26 (Defence) and 43 (Commercial) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and it was therefore necessary to decide whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

We have now completed this review and can confirm that some of the information you request has been withheld under Sections 26 and 43 of the FOIA. A response to your questions can be found at Annex A.

Sections 26(1)(b) and 43(2) have been applied to some of the information because to release it would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the MOD. Specifically, publishing technical capabilities or contract details of these legacy systems would likely allow reasoned assumptions to be made about the likely capabilities of current classified projects and equipment.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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 normally 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, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Joint Forces Command

Annex A to FOI2019/03690

Dated 22 May 19

Response to Request for Information

1. *Any technical ingratiation regarding capabilities.*

These systems conducted man-portable (SCARUS) and vehicle-mounted (ODETTE) high Frequency/Very High Frequency/Ultra High Frequency Electronic Surveillance. The specific technical capabilities have been withheld under Section 26.

2. *Date they entered service.*

SCARUS In Service Date: 2003

ODETTE In Service Date: 1998

3. *Planned date of retirement.*

SCARUS Out of Service Date: 2011

ODETTE Out of Service Date: 2013

4. *Names and any information regarding capabilities of any future planned prepayments.*

This information has been withheld under Section 26.

5. *Numbers of each piece in active service/use.*

As per Item 3, this equipment is no longer in active service/use.

6. *Any information linked to their original purchase.”*

This information has been withheld under Sections 26 and 43.