



Ministry  
of Defence



Ann-Marie Crampton  
DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment)

DESSEC-PolSecLE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk



Defence Equipment & Support  
Maple 0a # 2043  
MOD Abbey Wood  
Bristol BS34 8JH



Via: [REDACTED]

13 June 2019 Our Reference: FOI2019 05949

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 20 May 2019 requesting the following information:

***I have just purchased a Mk 3 Osprey set of armour. I had a look through the internet hoping to find a information booklet on the assembly of the kit. It has been purchased for me to use at our Cadet Unit in Great Yarmouth.***

***Would/could you please let me know if i have come to the right place to find this out and whether you can assist me in getting hold of something like this?***

***We have a set of Mk IV and found a information booklet and printed this off for us to use. Now that we have found the Mk III it would be great to find one. If you can assist or point us in the right direction would be advantageous.***

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found attached to this letter. Some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at sections 26 (Defence) and 38 (Health and Safety) of the FOIA and has been redacted.

Sections 26 and 38 are qualified exemptions and 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 26(1)(b) has been applied to some of the information because it contains details which are operationally sensitive and would prejudice the capability and effectiveness of our armed forces. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing any details that would prejudice the security of UK personnel and which would provide tactical advantage to our enemies. For these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

Section 38 has been applied because some of the information has the potential to adversely affect the physical and/or mental health of UK personnel as well as endanger the safety of an individual by exposing vulnerabilities in the levels of protection. The balance of the public interest test concluded that, whilst release would increase public understanding and confidence, the balance of the public interest lay in withholding this information. I have considered it necessary to apply the higher level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly 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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

**Ann-Marie Crampton (Mrs)**  
**DES SEC PolSec Land Equipment**