



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

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E-mail: MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2019/04770
RFI:152/19

Date: 13 May 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: IMITATION FIREARMS INCIDENTS.

We refer to your email dated 16 April 2019 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the 17 April 2019.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

“Could you tell me, broken down by calendar year, how many police incidents involving imitation firearms were dealt with by your force from the 1 January 2013 – 1 April 2019?”

In addition, of those incidents involving imitation firearms, how many prompted an armed police response?

Please provide this in the table format below:

Calendar year	Number of incidents involving imitation firearms	Number which prompted armed response?
2014	(292)	(150)
2015		
2016		
2017		
2018		
2019 (up to 1 April)		

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

Calendar year	Number of incidents involving imitation firearms	Number which prompted armed response?
2014	0	0
2015	0	0
2016	1	0
2017	1	0
2018	1	0
2019 (up to 1 April)	0	0

Additionally, The MDP can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to the whole of your request, as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 23(5) – Information relating to security bodies

Section 24(2) – National Security

Section 30(3) - Investigations

Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption and consideration must be given with regard to whether there is a public interest in neither confirming nor denying that any other information exists is the appropriate response.

Sections 24, and 31 are prejudice based qualified exemptions and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or denying that any other information is held by carrying out a public interest test.

I have conducted a public interest test and whilst there is a presumption in favour of release under FOI and while the Ministry of Defence Police understands the importance of releasing information that is in the public interest, it has been concluded that the balance strongly favours neither confirming or denying the Ministry of Defence Police holds any other information.

Section 24(2) is engaged because by confirming or denying whether any other information is held would render security measures less effective. Security measures are put in place to protect the communities we serve. To confirm whether any other information is held would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Sections 30(3)/31(3) are engaged because by confirming or denying that any other information is held would have the effect of compromising law enforcement tactics and would also hinder any investigations and the ability of the police service to engage with law enforcement partners in confidence.

This should not be taken as conclusive proof that any information that would meet your request exists or does not exist.

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).

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

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office