



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Room 126 Building 1070

MDP Wethersfield

Braintree CM7 4AZ

United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1371 85[REDACTED]

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

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2019/01456 RFI:50/19

Date: 21 February 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: DRONES AND LASERS

We refer to your email dated 4 February 2019 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the same date.

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:

“I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act, broken down by month since February 2016:

Q1 The number of reports regarding drone interference

Q2 The number of reports of incidents involving laser interference”

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.

Q1 The number of reports regarding drone interference

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	0	1	1	13
February	0	3	3	2
March	3	7	1	
April	4	5	7	
May	4	4	4	
June	3	2	5	
July	3	6	4	

August	4	1	4	
September	5	7	5	
October	1	2	6	
November	4	5	2	
December	4	5	8	

Additionally, in relation to Q1, the Ministry of Defence Police cannot confirm or deny that it holds any information in respect of any covert use of drones. This information is subject to the following exemptions: Section 23(5) – Information relating to security bodies: Section 24(2) – National Security: Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement. Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test.

Section 24(2) – National Security

Section 24(2) - is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused by confirming or not that any information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Section 31(3) is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused by confirming or not that any information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

I have conducted a public interest test and concluded that the balance strongly favours neither confirming or denying the Ministry of Defence Police holds information.

- Section 24(2) is engaged because to confirm or deny whether the Ministry of Defence Police hold any information on covert use of drones would limit operational capabilities and those with criminal intent would gain a greater understanding of the police's methods and therefore impact national security.
- Section 31(3) is engaged because to confirm or deny whether the Ministry of Defence Police hold any information on covert use of drones would have the effect of compromising law enforcement tactics and this would also hinder any future investigations.

Q2 The number of reports of incidents involving laser interference

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	0	0	0	2
February	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	1	
April	0	0	1	
May	0	0	1	
June	0	0	1	
July	0	0	1	
August	0	0	1	
September	0	0	0	
October	0	0	1	
November	0	0	0	
December	0	0	1	

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