



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2019/06453
RFI:203/19

Date: 25 June 2019

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: COMPUTER OPERATING SYSTEMS.

We refer to your email dated 3 June 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:

- “1. how many computers (desktops, laptops, tablets) are in the Force estate for use by officers and staff?**
- 2. which is the prevalent computer operating system across the constabulary (for example Microsoft Windows XP, Windows7, Windows 10, iOS (Apple), Chrome or other);**
- 3. which version of that system is the default;**
- 4. regardless which system is the current default, whether there is an intention to move to Windows 10 and if so when and at what estimated cost.**
- 5. If the force has commenced this move to Windows 10, what approximate proportion of devices are using Windows 10.”**

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.

1.how many computers (desktops, laptops, tablets) are in the Force estate for use by officers and staff?

The Ministry of Defence Police, as part of the wider MOD, predominantly uses the MOD Corporate Platform – MODNet. This global system has in excess of 100,000 computers available for use by officers and staff.

Question 2,3,4 and 5 have been withheld under S24 (National Security) S26 (Defence) and S31 (Law Enforcement).

Sections 24 26 and 31 are all prejudice based qualified exemptions and are 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. A public interest test (PIT) has been concluded and considered whether the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Section 24(1) has been applied because it would not be in the interest of the UK's national security to provide information on the department's IT systems. Release of such information would increase the risk of a successful attack on MOD computers, compromising national security.

Sections 26(1) (a) and (b) have been applied because knowledge of MOD operating systems could reveal to an adversary the cyber defence capabilities employed by the MOD. Release of such information would increase the risk of a successful cyber-attack on MOD, and compromise the defence of the UK.

Section 31 (1) Law Enforcement. Section 31(1) Law Enforcement applies because providing such details could aid malicious parties to launch an attack on such systems, which could subsequently undermine the prevention or detection of crime and the administration of justice.

On balance, we consider the public interest favours maintaining the exemptions and withholding the information you have requested.

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