



Ministry  
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment)

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Defence Equipment & Support  
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Bristol BS34 8JH



Via:

3 December 2019 Our Reference: FOI2019/12618

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 4 November 2019 requesting the following information:

***This news article from 2004 reports the MoD bought 24,000 Provigil pills to that date.***  
***<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2004/jul/29/health.sciencenews>***

***Can you please tell me how many Provigil pills have been bought between 2013 to the current date, providing a breakdown by the year of purchase, the quantity of pills and the cost?***

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the qualified exemption provided for at section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and is 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 43 (2) considers information which, if released is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. A person may be an individual, a company, the MOD, or any other legal entity. Disclosing the information requested would be considered a breach of commercial confidentiality and would weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information and/or information of usefulness to its competitors. This could result in other companies being reluctant to provide commercially sensitive information to the MOD and undermine the MOD's ability to secure value for money. 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".

The information you have requested can be found below.

Calendar Year	MODAFINIL 100MG TABLETS X 30		MODAFINIL 200MG TABLETS X 30	
	Cost	Number of Packs	Cost	Number of Packs
2013	Withheld	25	Not applicable	Not applicable
2014	Not applicable	Not applicable	Withheld	30
2015	Withheld	18	Withheld	42
2016	Withheld	44	Withheld	15
2017	Withheld	24	Withheld	33
2018	Withheld	12	Withheld	8
2019	Withheld	56	Withheld	14

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the medication data is categorised under the name Modafinil. This is an alternative brand name for Provigil under which the medication is sold.

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,

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