



Ministry
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment)

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Defence Equipment & Support
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Via:

12 September 2019 Our Reference: FOI2019/09701

Dear

Thank you for your email of 22 August 2019 requesting the following information:

- 1) ***Is there a key / legend to the name of the columns? Some columns, such as "Contract Start Date" are hard to understand. What contract, by whom, with whom?***
- 2) ***There are a number of items on the list that show same vehicle characteristics, despite likely being different vehicles. Each vehicle has a unique identifier, VIN (vehicle identification number). We need information about that number, so that we can differentiate individual vehicles in the list and prevent potential duplicit errors. If sharing a full VIN is a concern, we can do with so-called "Squish VIN" a shortener variant.***
- 3) ***Is there a chance of receiving the data in machine processable format? (i.e. xls, sql, csv, etc.)?***

This e-mail is further to FOI2019/09055 and FOI2019/07780.

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 some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you requested can be found, below, but some of the information falls within the scope of the qualified exemption provided for at section 26 (Defence), of the FOIA and has been withheld.

For ease of reply, I will refer to each of your questions in turn.

- 1) ***Is there a key / legend to the name of the columns? Some columns, such as "Contract Start Date" are hard to understand. What contract, by whom, with whom?***

I am unable to provide any further details on the heading of each column. The column headings are automatically generated headings used to display the information once it has been extracted and downloaded from the central database. Regarding the part of that question about 'Contract Start Date'; this column refers to the date at which a vehicle was leased. It does not relate to any new contract outside of the overarching contract with Phoenix.

- 2) ***There are a number of items on the list that show same vehicle characteristics, despite likely being different vehicles. Each vehicle has a unique identifier, VIN (vehicle identification number). We need information about that number, so that we can differentiate individual vehicles in the list and prevent potential duplicit errors. If sharing a full VIN is a concern, we can do with so-called "Squish VIN" a shortener variant.***

This information is withheld as it falls under Section 26(1)(b) of the FOIA. Release of any vehicle identification information would put either MOD personnel, MOD locations or those affiliated with the MOD at risk.

Section 26; 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 26(1)(b) has been applied to some of the information because it contains details which are operationally sensitive which 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 and 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".

- 3) ***Is there a chance of receiving the data in machine processable format? (i.e. xls, sql, csv, etc.)***

It is the MOD standard policy to provide any information in PDF format only and we are unable to provide this data in any other format.

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,


DES SEC PolSec Land Equipment