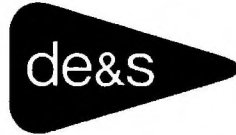




Ministry
of Defence



[REDACTED]
DE&S Secretariat (Land Equipment)

DESSEC-PoISecLE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk

Defence Equipment & Support
Maple 0a # 2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



Via: [REDACTED]

20 December 2019 Our Reference: FOI2019/12372

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 28 October 2019 requesting the following information:

I am trying to find detailed information on the UK government spend/budget related to the THPS program (Tactical Hearing Protection System Program), ideally split into spending on THPS-BU, THPS-DCCU and THPS-SU. I have searched the MOD websites extensively and done a general lit search and the best information I can find is from a previous FOI request on number of units covered by THPS. Do you have similar information but with budget spend data from 2013-2020?

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. However, 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 provided below shows the combined annual total spend for Tactical Hearing Protection Systems (THPS). For reasons stated above, it is not possible to provide the information split into THPS-BU, THPS-DCCU and THPS-SU.

Financial Year	Combined Total THPS Spend 2013 – 2019 (VAT Inclusive)
2013/14	Not held
2014/15	Not held
2015/16	£1,837,489.85
2016/17	£9,972,947.68
2017/18	£14,793,425.21
2018/19	£3,513,335.45

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find the link below helpful. This link provides information about the current contract award. It should be noted however, that the contract award also included additional procurement items and therefore does not solely relate to the procurement of Tactical Hearing Protection Systems.

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/f0cf6ec8-c004-40d6-b049-d5710f11c96f?p=@xUIRRPT0=NjJNT08=UFQ>

Regarding information relating to financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15, a full search has been undertaken, however this information is no longer held.

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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