



Ministry
of Defence Police

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2019/12285
RFI:369/19
Date: 20 December 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: FRAUD

I refer to your email dated 24 October 2019 which was acknowledged on 28 October 2019.

I am 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. Does your force have a dedicated fraud team, sometimes known as a fraud investigation unit? What is the official name for this unit?**
- 2. If yes, how many police staff members are in this unit or team and what are the job titles of these staff members?**
- 3. How many police staff members were in this unit on the same date five years ago, October 24, 2014? What were the job titles of these staff members? (I only use the date five years ago as a point of reference. If you simply know the number and job titles at some point during 2014 this is fine.)**
- 4. In total, how many dedicated fraud investigators do you have at your force?**
- 5. In total, how many dedicated fraud investigators did you have at your force five years ago on October 24, 2014?**
- 6. According to the HMICFRS report into fraud from April 2019, some police forces do not have dedicated fraud units but, instead, fraud investigations sit within wider economic crime or financial crime units. Is this the case at your force?**

7. How many fraud investigations does your force have capacity to undertake at any one time?

8. How many fraud investigations did your force have capacity to undertake at any one time in 2014?

9. How many disseminations from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has your force received in the past year (from 24/10/2018 until 24/10/2019)?

10. How many of these disseminations were allocated for investigation?

11. How many of these investigations resulted in a criminal justice outcome (where a suspect is charged, summonsed or receives a formal out-of-court outcome i.e., a caution)?

A search for information has been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

1. Does your force have a dedicated fraud team, sometimes known as a fraud investigation unit? What is the official name for this unit?

Allegations of crime committed against Defence interests, including fraud, are investigated by officers in the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) Crime Command. The MDP does not have a separate fraud investigation unit.

2. If yes, how many police staff members are in this unit or team and what are the job titles of these staff members?

No information held – See response to Q1

3. How many police staff members were in this unit on the same date five years ago, October 24, 2014? What were the job titles of these staff members? (I only use the date five years ago as a point of reference. If you simply know the number and job titles at some point during 2014 this is fine.)

No information held – See response to Q1

4. In total, how many dedicated fraud investigators do you have at your force?

No information held – See response to Q1

5. In total, how many dedicated fraud investigators did you have at your force five years ago on October 24, 2014?

No information held – See response to Q1

6. According to the HMICFRS report into fraud from April 2019, some police forces do not have dedicated fraud units but, instead, fraud investigations sit within wider economic crime or financial crime units. Is this the case at your force?

Yes

9. How many disseminations from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has your force received in the past year (from 24/10/2018 until 24/10/2019)?

0

10. How many of these disseminations were allocated for investigation?

No information held

11. How many of these investigations resulted in a criminal justice outcome (where a suspect is charged, summonsed or receives a formal out-of-court outcome i.e., a caution)?

No information held

However, in respect of Q7 and 8, the information you have requested would be subject to the following exemption: Section 31(Law Enforcement) and is therefore withheld.

Section 31 is a qualified exemption and 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 31(1) has been applied because disclosing the current capability of the MDP to deal with fraud investigations would enable those intent on committing fraud offences to try and use that information maliciously to disrupt the forces ability to deter, detect and prevent the crime.

In favour of release for Q7 and 8 is the presumption towards disclosure under FOI as answering these questions would demonstrate the Departments commitment to transparency and openness. Furthermore disclosure would demonstrate how the police service is able to tackle fraud investigations and better awareness could potentially reduce crime or lead to more information from the public.

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

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