



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
D3, Building 405  
Corsham  
Wiltshire  
SN13 9NR  
United Kingdom

Ref: FOI2019/10557

E-mail: [ISS-SecretariatGpMbx@mod.gov.uk](mailto:ISS-SecretariatGpMbx@mod.gov.uk)

[Redacted]

3 October 2019

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email of 12 September 2019 requesting the following information:

*“This is an information request relating to websites.*

*Please itemise the information for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19:*

- *What are the three most common websites visited (excluding search engines and departmental/government intranet)?*

*If Section 12 limitations arise, please fulfil the request for London-based staff only.”*

[repeat precisely those parts of the original request which described the information requested but omit any superfluous information in the request].

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, and I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found in the table below.

MOD records the number of HTTP requests rather than websites visited. This means that where a website consists of a number of separate components required to present the page you actually see on your screen, for example, page layout, text on the page, pictures, video, URL’s to other pages, document links, picture links, cookie information, advertising feeds, advertising tracking, page updates, scrolling banners, refresh data, then each of these is counted as a separate HTTP request; an example of this is that in order to display the Telegraph home page, 284 HTTP requests to domains are made. This could result in that site appearing higher in our results than a site that has the same number of unique visits but which has fewer component parts.

Year:	Most common website visited:	Second most common website visited:	Third most common website visited:
2016	dailymail.co.uk	Amazon.com	Independent.co.uk
2017	dailymail.co.uk	Amazon.com	Telegraph.co.uk
2018	dailymail.co.uk	Amazon.com	Telegraph.co.uk
2019	dailymail.co.uk	Amazon.com	Msm.com

While it may appear that the Mail or Telegraph websites are particularly popular with MOD staff, larger more complex home pages will have inflated figures when measured by HTTP request. So it therefore cannot be concluded from this data alone that the Daily Mail website is the most visited site at the Ministry of Defence.

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](mailto: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,

Information Systems and Services (ISS) Secretariat