



Ministry
of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI2020/02249 RFI: 78/20
Date: 5 March 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: COVERT HUMAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

I refer to your email dated 14 February 2020 which was acknowledged on 17 February 2020.

We are 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:

:: The amount paid each year by your force to informers or covert human intelligence sources (CHIS) for each year from 2015 to the present. (To be clear, by CHIS I exclude paid law enforcement officers who are working undercover and refer only to private individuals who have received sums of money in return for information). I am happy to receive this information either by calendar year or financial year - whichever is simplest.

I would like to establish if possible the scale of these payments in terms of the sums received by individuals. On this basis, I would also like to request:

:: The average sum paid per informant/CHIS for each year from 2015 - ie the annual total paid divided by the number of informants.

:: The highest sum paid each year to a single informant/CHIS - ie the largest sum of money received by an individual in return for information.

A search for information has been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request as follows:

Year	Amount paid to informants £
2015	4077
2016	5920
*2017/18	3200
2018/19	1006
2019/20	1250

*Financial Year basis from 17/18 onwards

Information relating to the average sum and highest value of payment is withheld under Section 30(2) Investigations and Proceedings, Section 30 (2) is a class based exemption and Section 40(2) – Personal Information. I have conducted a Public Interest Test (PIT) in respect of Section 30(2) and concluded that the balance favours exempting the information from release.

Whilst disclosure would assist in stopping any incorrect rumours or falsehoods relating to how the police store and manage how informants assist the police, Section 30(2) (investigations) applies because disclosure of the information requested could identify informant activity within a force area. This would hinder the prevention and detection of crime and also prejudice our ability to maintain confidential sources. Consequently, the force's future law enforcement capabilities would be affected.

Additionally, the Ministry of Defence Police can neither confirm nor deny that they hold any other information relevant to the whole of your request by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 23(5) Information relating to security bodies

Section 24(2) National Security

Section 30(3) Investigations

Section 23 is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test.

Section 24(2) is a qualified prejudiced based exemption, there is a requirement for us to evidence harm confirming or denying information is held and also consider the public interest.

Section 30(3)) is a class based qualified exemption, there is a requirement for us to evidence harm confirming or denying information is held and also consider the public interest.

Section 24(2) is engaged because to confirm or deny whether the Ministry of Defence Police hold any additional information would allow inferences to be made about the nature and extent of national security related activities which may or may not take place. This could enable terrorist groups to take steps to avoid detection, and as such, confirmation or denial would be damaging to national security.

Section 30(3) is engaged because to confirm or deny whether the Ministry of Defence Police hold any additional information could jeopardise the necessary protection to individuals. The police service as a whole will never disclose information that could potentially hinder the prevention and detection of crime.

This should not be taken as conclusive evidence that any other information that would meet your request exists or does not exist.

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

MDP Freedom of Information Office