



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
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Email: DESSEC-PolSecLE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

Our Reference:
FOI2020/06437
Date:
22 June 2020

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 5 June 2020 requesting the following information:

“Please explain why and in what volume vehicle spare parts are being scrapped via shredding or crushing at scrap yards around the country, as you know all spare parts were sold via auctions, Withams or Brightwells and return millions back to the taxpayers in line with government policy,

Can you give me any assurance that the vehicle spare parts will be sold again via auctions in the future.”

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below.

The Defence Equipment Sales Authority (DESA) is the MOD department responsible for sale and disposal of surplus and obsolete equipment. The DESA uses a variety of sales routes, however, the majority of the sales are made through specialist marketing contractors, including Brightwells and previously Withams. Irrespective of the sales route the DESA is tasked with achieving the best return for the taxpayer from the disposal of publicly-funded materiel.

The DESA also has to consider any sales restrictions, such as:

- Foreign export controlled assets.
- UK Security controlled assets where mandated by the asset owner.
- Damaged or used parts.
- Sensitive disposals, e.g. loss of life, major life changing injuries or as mandated by the asset owner.
- Intellectual Property Rights.
- Environmental Impact.

If any of these restrictions apply it may be necessary to scrap the items rather than sell. The list of restrictions is not exhaustive and is subject to change at any time.

Vehicle spares may be sold through Brightwells or a relevant DESA contractor, but they must be in accordance with the above restrictions.

DESA does not keep a record of spares that are scrapped; they are sent to EMR by tonnage.

The DESA continues to work closely with all its contractors to ensure the best possible financial return.

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

DE&S Secretariat