



# Ministry of Defence

Our Reference: FOI2020/07549

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30 July 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 1 July 2020 requesting the following information:

*“Under the Freedom of Information act can you please provide me with the following information from the last five calendar years:*

- The a) number and b) types of weapons reported or found to be lost or stolen*
- The a) number any b) types of munitions reported or found to be lost or stolen*
- The a) amount and b) types of ammunition reported or found to be lost or stolen*
- The a) amount and b) types of explosive reported or found to be lost or stolen*

*For all the above can you tell me the year and the base/location to which the items were found to be lost or stolen from.”*

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and we can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of absolute exemptions provided for at Section 21 (Information reasonably accessible to the Applicant) and qualified exemptions provided for at Section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the FOIA and has been withheld.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-december-12-2016>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-3-july-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-released-by-mod-week-commencing-27-august-2018>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-released-by-mod-week-commencing-14-january-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-released-by-mod-week-commencing-1-april-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-released-by-mod-week-commencing-9-march-2020>

In addition to the above, between 1 October and 31 December 2019, the following firearm(s) and ammunition were reported, and remain, missing:

Type	Quantity	Reported by	Lost/Stolen
General Purpose Machine Gun (with blank firing barrel)	1	Navy	Lost at sea in bad weather
WW1-era Rifles (Deactivated)	4	Army	Stolen

### Explosive munitions:

Type	Quantity	Lost/Stolen
9mm	37	Lost
5.56mm	37	Lost
7.62mm	8	Lost
12.7mm	10	Lost

The MOD takes the security of firearms and ammunition very seriously and have robust procedures to deter and prevent losses and thefts which are constantly reviewed. The majority of ammunition losses occur as a result of accidental loss during exercises or on operations.

Section 31 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 31 has been applied because releasing details of the unit responsible/location of loss or theft could be prejudicial to the prevention and detection of crime. When a public interest test was conducted relating to the use of this section, it was deemed that the balance of public interest lay against the release of unit responsible for the aforementioned reasons.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact us in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for 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 must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Directorate of Security & Resilience