



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
Secretariat
#2043 Maple 0a
Ministry of Defence
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Email: DES SEC-PoISec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.uk

Our Reference:
FOI2021/04154
Date:
14 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing about your request of 20 March 2021, which asked:

I have recently purchased an ex-military TRUCK UTY MED (HD) 6X6 PPV (PINZGAUER) VECTOR.

In order to correctly repair and maintain this vehicle I require access to the various operating / repair manuals produced for this vehicle when in service.

Therefore, I submit an FOI request for the electronic copies of the following operator / repair manuals:

- 1) Operating Information 2320-D-503-201***
- 2) Repair Instructions 2320-D-503-522***
- 3) Maintenance Schedules 2320-D-503-601***
- 4) Illustrated Parts Catalogue 2320-D-503-711***
- 5) Technical Description 2320-D-503-302***
- 6) Complete Equipment Schedule 2320-D-503-741***

On 19 April 2021 you kindly reduced the scope to read:

I would like to refine my FOI request to cover 2 individual manuals which would greatly assist myself in running/maintaining/repairing my Vector vehicle.

I therefore refine: FOI2021/03128 to request electronic copies of ONLY the following AESP's:

- 1) Repair Instructions (AESP 2320-D-503-5220***
- 2) Maintenance Schedules (AESP 2320-D-503-601)***

Your request has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

A search has been undertaken of Ministry of Defence (MOD) records and the two Army Equipment Support Publications (AESP) are held. Copies are provided with this response.

However, it has proved necessary to withhold some information under qualified exemptions Section 26(1)(a) and (b) (Defence) and Section 38(1)(a) and (b) (Health and Safety) of the FOI Act. Section 26 applies to information that if disclosed would or would likely prejudice the defence of the British Islands or any colony; and/or the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces of the

Crown or any forces cooperating with them. Section 38 applies to information that if disclosed would or would likely endanger the physical or mental health, or safety of any individual.

As both exemptions are qualified, it was necessary to undertake a Public Interest Test to determine whether the balance for withholding the information outweighs that for disclosure. Releasing would demonstrate the MOD's commitment to openness and transparency, make Government more accountable to the electorate, and demonstrate that activities are conducted in an open and honest way. However, the release of information relating to vehicle protection schemes, onboard weights and specialist equipment would compromise the ability of UK Armed Forces to carry out operations safely; by revealing information about capabilities and actions which could assist adversaries in planning attacks against Armed Forces personnel and equipment.

The general arguments for releasing both AESPs in their entirety are outweighed by those for withholding information that would provide tactical advantage to those wishing to inhibit the MOD's capability, effectiveness and security, and physically and mentally harm MOD personnel. On balance, the weight of public interest therefore lies in withholding some information under qualified exemptions Section 26(1) (Defence) and Section 38(1)(a) and (b) (Health and Safety) of the FOI Act. The level of prejudice against release of this exempted information has been set at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

In addition, and in accordance with Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, I can advise that Section 18 of AESP 2320-D-503-522 (Repair Instructions) relating to the Environmental Control System is a commercial publication provided by Eberspächer (UK) Limited and is not owned by the MOD. As such, you are advised to contact the company direct in order to try and obtain a copy. The contact details are:

Eberspächer (UK) Ltd.
Climate Control Systems
Climate House
Yeoman Road
Ringwood
Hampshire BH24 3FA

Phone: 01425 480151
Email: enquiries@eberspaecher.com

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