



Ministry
of Defence



DE&S Secretariat



DES SEC-PolSec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk



Defence Equipment & Support
Maple 0a, #2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



24 November 2021
Our Reference: FOI2021/14002

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing about your email of 16 November 2021, requesting the following information:

*I am making this Freedom of Information Request to inquire whether you have any vehicle Merlin Reports, Vehicle Record Cards or any other service history on Penman trailer xv24aa we have checked the merlin archives and no data shows for this trailer.
Army Reg no: xv24aa*

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

A search has been carried out of Ministry of Defence (MOD) records and it is confirmed that some information is held. This is enclosed, as follows:

Annex A – Modification History
Annex B – Fault History (Redacted)
Annex C – Service History
Annex D – Inspection History

It has proved necessary to withhold information in the Fault History (Annex B), relating to contractor repair times, under qualified exemption Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the FOI Act. This is

Section 43 concerns information which if disclosed would or would likely; prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including defence contractors and the public authority holding it). As a qualified exemption it was necessary to undertake a Public Interest Test to determine whether the balance for withholding the information outweighs that for disclosure.

General arguments in favour of release were that full disclosure would demonstrate the MOD's commitment to openness and transparency; and make the UK Government more accountable to the electorate. The FOI Act also contains a presumption for release. However, providing details of the time taken by MOD contractors to rectify fault reports could, along with previously published information, be used to make reasonable assumptions about hourly labour rates. As market sensitive information, release may be detrimental to future competitive exercises.

Given the arguments described above, on balance, it was determined that the information should be withheld. 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".

Details of your vehicle's ownership history have previously been published. Section 21(1) of the FOI Act provides that it is exempt if it is reasonably available by other means. The Merlin archive was released as part of a previous FOI request and can be accessed at the Government publications website, at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-responses-published-by-mod-week-commencing-09-july-2018>.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act, I can advise you that the Merlin database is split into seven spreadsheets. The first has a list of vehicles, while sheets two through seven include details of where the vehicle was allocated. To search for a vehicle, you will need to press Ctrl + F on your computer keyboard, then select 'Options' and then select 'Workbook' from the 'Within' drop down list. Information relevant to your request can be found by typing the vehicle registration number and pressing 'enter'.

You may wish to note that when the Merlin database was archived into its current format some data may have been lost or corrupted. You should, therefore, be cautious that some of the data may be inaccurate.

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

Work Objects															
Serial Number:	XV24AA														
NSN:	2330999086472														
Criteria:															
Repair Level:	ALL														
Work Object Status:	Closed														
Mission Impact:	ALL														
Fault State:	ALL														
Escalate Work:	ALL														
Work Request ID:															
Assigned Work Status:	ALL														
Working Organisation:															
Repair Section:															
Modification Event ID	Modification Number	Modification Description	Work Request ID	Escalate Work	Production Classification/In Service Classification	Modification Type	Apply When Usage Equals	Embody by Target Date	Usage Counter Units	Fault State	Work Status	Repair Level	Working Organisation	Repair Section	Estimated Repair Time
000000-0062D296	00001	Improvements to hydraulic braking system		No	1/A	RTI				Limited Role	CL	Level 2			

Work Objects														
Serial Number:	XV24AA													
NSN:	2330999086472													
Criteria:														
Repair Level:	ALL													
Work Object Status:	Closed													
Mission Impact:	ALL													
Fault State:	ALL													
Escalate Work:	ALL													
Work Request ID:														
Assigned Work Status:	ALL													
Working Organisation:														
Repair Section:														
Fault ID	Work Request ID	Fault Description	Work Status	Fault State	Escalate Work	Repair Level	Batch Fault Group ID Number	Fault Occurrence Date	Mission Impact	Reason For Work	Level 3 Description	Working Organisation	Repair Section	Estimated Repair Time
000000-007F4582		6, 12, 24 MONTHLY MAINT - CHANGE BRAKE FLUID	Closed	Limited Role	No	Level 1		12 Mar 2014	N/A	Inspection	TLR LW 1.13T 2 WHD GS CARGO			
000000-007F457F		REPLACE LH INDICATORS LENS	Closed	Limited Role	No	Level 1		12 Mar 2014	N/A	Inspection	TLR LW 1.13T 2 WHD GS CARGO			
000000-007F4578		FREE OFF JOCKEY WHEEL - SEIZED IN UPRIGHT POSITION	Closed	Limited Role	No	Level 1		12 Mar 2014	N/A	Inspection	TLR LW 1.13T 2 WHD GS CARGO			
000000-00012419		Initial Usage	Closed	Fully Fit	No	Level 1		30 Mar 2006			TLR LW 1.13T 2 WHD GS CARGO			
000000-0001241A		Initial Maintenance	Closed	Fully Fit	No	Level 1		30 Mar 2006			TLR LW 1.13T 2 WHD GS CARGO			

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Assigned Work Status:	ALL									
Working Organisation:										
Repair Section:										
Maintenance Event ID	Work Request ID	Escalate Work	Maintenance Event Name	Next Due Date	Repair Level	Fault State	Work Status	Estimated Repair Time	Working Organisation	Repair Section
000000-003BB617		No	2 Yearly/24000 Kms		Level 1			000:00		
000000-003BB619		No	Yearly/12000 Kms		Level 1			000:00		
000000-003BB61A		No	6 Monthly/6000 Kms		Level 2			000:00		
000000-003BB618		No	OOPS 2 Yearly Brake Fluid (2) (AR)		Level 2			000:00		

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000000-003BB612		No	6 Monthly 6534 Insp		Level 1			000:00		
000000-003BB611		No	MEI (2)	24 Mar 2015	Level 2			000:00		

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