



# Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2021/13073

RFI: 318/21

Date: 9 December 2021

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Dear [REDACTED]

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: POLICE INFORMANTS.**

We refer to your email dated 28 October 2021 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the same date.

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:

**(1) For the calendar years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and available data for 2021, please state how much the police force has spent on informants. Please provide a breakdown by year.**

**(2) For the calendar years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and available data for 2021, please state how much the police force has spent on informants in relation to Black Lives Matter. Please provide a breakdown by year.**

**(3) For the calendar years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and available data for 2021, please state how much the police force has spent on informants in relation to environmental groups and environmental protests. Please provide a breakdown by year.**

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

**(1) For the calendar years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and available data for 2021, please state how much the police force has spent on informants. Please provide a breakdown by year.**

Year	Amount paid to informants £
2016	5920
2017/18	3200
2018/19	1006
2020/21	3266

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 24(2) National Security

Section 30(3) Investigations by virtue of s30(2) *It relates to the obtaining of information from confidential sources*

Section 31(3) Law Enforcement

Section 38(2) Health and Safety

Section 40(5) Personal Information

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test.

Sections 24, 31 and 38 are qualified prejudiced based exemptions, 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 although the public are entitled to know how public funds are spent in policing, 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. The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection. The only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with what is placed into the public domain.

Although confirming or denying information exists would lead to a better informed general public, 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 and undermine any ongoing investigations, by restricting the flow of information into the force.

In respect of Section 31(3), the fact that the Police Service use informants to assist in the delivery of effective operational law enforcement in itself favours disclosure. However if an FOI disclosure revealed information to the world (by citing an exemption or stating no information held) that would assist an offender, such an action would undermine the security of the national infrastructure and undermine law enforcement.

Section 38(2) is engaged because, although confirming whether information is or isn't held would provide reassurance to the general public that the MDP use sources as a means of acquiring intelligence, confirming or denying that information exists could lead to the loss of public confidence in the MDP's ability to protect the wellbeing of such individuals. The MDP

has a duty of care and to reveal information which would place the safety of individuals in grave danger, is not in the public interest.

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 Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office**