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of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support  
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Our Reference:  
FOI2021/07422  
Date:  
5 August 2021

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 9 July 2021 requesting the following information:

*"I am making a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Please could you tell me, for the period since April 2021:*

1. *How many England football shirts has the department purchased - either through direct spending or expensed spending?
  - a) *If yes, who are they for?*
  - b) *And how much has been spent in total?**
2. *Has the department paid or received any tickets for England Euro 2020 matches. If so, how many, and to what value?*
3. *How many England flags has the department purchased in this time, and how much did they cost overall?*

*If I can clarify this request in any way, please let me know".*

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

Any information that might be held by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in respect of purchases of England football shirts, tickets for England Euro 2020 football matches and England flags is not centrally held. In order to establish whether any such purchases were made would require identifying every MOD unit, both in the UK and overseas, approaching them to provide the requested data and then compiling it into a response.

It has been assessed that do this would fall within the scope of Section 12(2) of the FOI Act. This makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days at a flat rate of £25 per hour. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide an

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estimate of how long this work would take but it would exceed the £600 limit by a considerable amount.

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act the MOD should try and help you to refine the scope of your request to bring it under the £600 limit, although this would be difficult on this occasion as no information you have requested is centrally held. However, you may wish to note that MOD policy is that tickets for sporting and other cultural and social events must not normally be purchased from public funds. There are also strict controls on the purchase of gifts and promotional items, as set out in the relevant policy document:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/827379/20190319-JSP462\\_Pt1.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/827379/20190319-JSP462_Pt1.pdf)

I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing response. 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