



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
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Ministry of Defence
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Our Reference:
FOI2021/08709
Date:
3 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

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

"We have been anecdotally informed that the MOD have a regulation that if a textile item touches skin it can not be reused by another person - is that accurate and if so could you share with us the details of that policy?"

Does the MOD track how many tons of textile waste it produces each year, and if so could you inform us of the numbers?"

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

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that some information falling within the scope of your request is held. This is provided, as follows:

We have been anecdotally informed that the MOD have a regulation that if a textile item touches skin it can not be reused by another person - is that accurate and if so could you share with us the details of that policy? Next to Skin Items are defined as socks, underwear, thermal underwear, vests, T-shirts, uniform shirts, hats and towels. These items are classed as unserviceable once they are no longer of use, either because they are worn out or because the wearer has no further need for them; for example, after leaving service. Any item declared as unserviceable is returned to depot for disposal.

Does the MOD track how many tons of textile waste it produces each year, and if so could you inform us of the numbers? As previously advised to another individual in your company in our FOI response Ref FOI2021/08660 dated 18 August 2021, a new contract for the disposal of clothing/textiles has been awarded to Field Textiles Limited. Under the terms of this new contract agreement there is no requirement for the contractor to provide the MOD with details of the weight of the clothing/textiles it disposes of. Therefore, the information you have requested is not held.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

Defence Equipment & Support

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