



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
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Ministry of Defence
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[REDACTED]

Our Reference:
FOI2021/10123
Date: 28 September 2021

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 7 September 2021 requesting the following information:

"I am looking for information on the following item of clothing:

Coat, Man's, Naval Officers 8405-99-135-7523 manufactured under contract CT2A/3112

I am specifically looking for material specifications, company awarded the contract for manufacture, and details about construction, most specifically regarding the belt construction for the back of the coat."

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 in scope of your request is held.

Attached with this letter is a specification for this item from 1970. We can advise that a contract with a similar reference number, DC2CESL/3112, was awarded to a supplier, Watts and Stone. However, we cannot confirm if this item was covered by that contract. The exact contract number that you have specified would be very difficult to trace as the contract predates our IT records. Instead, the information would have been stored in manual files and the pattern information provided in manual issue records. The item became obsolete in 2000.

To ascertain if we still hold the file to confirm if the item was included in the specified contract would involve a manual search in archive records. 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 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 the MOD should assist the requestor to reduce the scope of the request, in order to bring it below the £600 cost threshold. Unfortunately, on this occasion, it will not be possible to do so as there is no option to reduce the request to allow the MOD to provide a meaningful 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