



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
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Ministry of Defence
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[Redacted]

Our Reference:
FOI2021/10585
Date: 12 October 2021

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email of 17 September 2021 requesting the following information:

“Since becoming subsumed within DE&S it has become very difficult to obtain information on the running costs and budget of the British Forces Post Office (BFPO). The annual accounts of DE&S make no specific mention of it and makes no reference to the BFPO at all. The last accounts I am able to find within the public domain go back to 2006 - published in 2007 when it is assessed that the BFPOs operating budget was in the region of £34 million and it employed 311 people.

Could you please advise me what the annual operating budget of the BFPO has been over the last 5 years?”

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below.

BFPO Operational Budget

(£M (excl. VAT))	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	FY 20/21	FY 21/22
Equipment Programme ¹	2.040	2.993	2.663	2.276	3.115
Operation Expenditure ²	8.894	9.643	9.607	10.868	10.321
Total	10.935	12.636	12.270	13.144	13.436

¹ The Equipment Programme is the expenditure for delivery of BFPO’s service i.e. Freight Movement, Sorting System and related IT, Fleet car charges for Defence Couriers etc.

² Operation Expenditure consists of all the support to delivering the service i.e. People Costs, Travel & Subsistence, Professional Fees, Property Maintenance etc.

I can confirm that the BFPO ceased to be an Executive Agency of the MOD on 1 April 2007. when it became part of Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S). Since then the BFPO's accounts have been consolidated within the DE&S Annual Report and Accounts.

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
Defence Equipment & Support