



Ministry
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support
Secretariat
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Ministry of Defence
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Our Reference:
FOI2022/01317
Date:
22 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 24 January 2022 requesting the following information:

"I am writing to request information on where end of life uniforms go that are used in the forces. I am mainly interested in RAF uniforms. I would like to know the process involved in disposing of them and the name of the companies that are used. I would also like to know where material supplies go at the end of their life; such as parachutes, bags, tents etc. All the information available would be much appreciated in electronic or paper form."

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 information in scope of your request is held. This is provided as follows:

The Defence Equipment Sales Authority (DESA) handles a wide variety of equipment, from large platforms such as warships, tanks and aircraft, to smaller assets such as clothing and textiles, military spares, scrap metal, office/IT equipment and hazardous items (e.g. petrol/oil). Most of this equipment is disposed of on our behalf via a series of specialist contractors. All surplus non-classified clothing/textiles including uniforms, parachutes, bags and tents is sent to our contractor, Field Textiles Ltd, for re-sale. Any items deemed not fit for re-sale go for re-cycling/material reclamation depending on the condition of the item, and are sold in bulk loads. Further information can be obtained by visiting the Field Textiles website at www.fieldtextiles.co.uk.

Contaminated material (i.e. by mould, oil, etc) will be treated as waste. This is handled either by the MOD's Defence Infrastructure Organisation, relevant local authority collection or a specialist waste contractor, dependant on the type of material/contamination. Waste is not a saleable commodity and will be disposed of as such in a legally compliant manner by units/sites either locally or via the DESA's waste contractor.

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