



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support  
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Our Reference:  
FOI2021/08082  
Date:  
12 August 2021

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 22 July 2021 requesting the following information:

*"I have just bought an ex-mod Snatch Land Rover and was hoping you could supply any documentation and history for it please.  
Reg number: 26-KK-83."*

I have treated 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 it is confirmed that some information is held that can be released. This is enclosed as follows:

Annex A - Vehicle Ownership History  
Annex B - Modification History (Redacted)  
Annex C - Fault History (Redacted)  
Annex D - Inspection History  
Annex E - Service History

It has proved necessary to withhold some information in accordance with qualified exemptions of the FOI Act. Some of the Modification History (Annex B), relating to classified equipment, has been redacted in accordance with Sections 26(1) (a) and (b) (Defence) and Section 38(1) (a) and (b) (Health and Safety). Also, information relating to contractor repair times has also been redacted from the Modification History (Annex B) and the Fault History (Annex C) under Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests).

Section 26 applies to information that if disclosed would or would likely; prejudice the defence of the British Islands or any colony; and/or the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces of the Crown or any forces cooperating with them. Section 38 applies to information that if disclosed would or would likely; endanger the physical and/or mental health or endanger the safety of any individual. Section 43 concerns information which if disclosed would or would likely; prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including defence contractors and the public authority holding it).

As these exemptions are qualified it was necessary to undertake a Public Interest Test to determine whether the balance for withholding the information outweighs that for disclosure.

General arguments in favour of release were that full disclosure would demonstrate the MOD's commitment to openness and transparency; and make the UK Government more accountable to the electorate. The FOI Act also contains a presumption for release.

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However, releasing some of the Modification History (Annex B) would divulge information that could be used to compromise the ability of UK Armed Forces to carry out operations safely; by revealing information about vehicle modifications which could assist adversaries to plan attacks against equipment and endanger the lives of personnel. Also, providing details of the time taken by MOD contractors to rectify fault reports in the Modification and Fault Reports (Annexes B and C) could, along with previously published information, be used to make reasonable assumptions about hourly labour rates. As market sensitive information, release would likely be detrimental to future competitive exercises.

Given the arguments described above, on balance, it was determined that the information should be withheld. The level of prejudice against release of this exempted information has been set at the higher level of “would” rather than “would be likely to”.

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