



Ministry
of Defence



Defence Equipment & Support Secretariat

DES SEC-PolSec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.gov.uk



Defence Equipment & Support
Maple 0a, #2043
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH



Email: [REDACTED]

5 September 2022
Our Reference: FOI2022/09114

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing about your request for the following information:

“I’m writing to lodge a Freedom of Information request regarding whether the British Ministry of Defence, including DE&S & RMS, has conducted a technical, legal, or any other formal assessment of the United States Army’s M855A1 Enhanced Performance Round (EPR), or its prototypes or surrogates, and, if so, when.”

Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

I last wrote to you on 30 August 2022 to advise that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds some information falling within the scope of your request. I also advised that it was necessary to determine whether some information should be withheld under qualified exemptions of the FOI Act, including Section 43 (Commercial). This exemption 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).

It has been concluded that whilst some information relating to assessments of the US Army’s M855A1 Enhanced Performance Round is indeed commercially sensitive, that which relates to the specific questions you asked can be released.

As such, I can advise you that an assessment of the US M855A1 round was undertaken during 2015 and 2016 as part of a series of comparison trials that compared various 5.56mm bullet designs to establish their likely performance against a range of targets.

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

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DE&S Secretariat