



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2022/08090

RFI: 161/22

Date: 1st September 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: ARMED POLICE BODY ARMOUR LEVEL.

We refer to your email dated 5th July 2022 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on 5th July 2022.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

Please could you confirm the following:

- 1) What is the most used body armour used by Armed police (Mole Vest, covert armour)**
- 2) What level is the body armour used by Firearms officers (NIJ 3A, Standard stab vest level only)**
- 3) is the body armour Stab and spike resistant along with firearm level, will it protect against rounds fired from their weapons?**

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

However, we have completed a Public Interest Test and we need to advise you that the information in scope of Question 2 and 3 is being withheld under the following exemptions:

Section 24 (1) National Security
Section 31 (1) Law Enforcement

Sections 24 and 31 are prejudice based qualified exemptions and there is a requirement to consider the public interest by conducting a public interest test.

Section 24(1) has been applied because although the public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and how resources are distributed within policing, releasing information of this nature would render national security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infra-structure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Section 31(1) has been applied because although releasing this information would lead to better public awareness of operational policing and thereby a potential reduction in crime. Releasing information could allow terrorists and individuals intent on carrying out criminal behaviour the opportunity to increase the risk of harm to the public.

On balance, the public interest favours maintaining the exemptions and withholding the information you have requested.

Please could you confirm the following:

1) What is the most used body armour used by Armed police (Mole Vest, covert armour)

Ministry of Defence Police currently wear overt armour with either a molle cover or a molle vest.

2) What level is the body armour used by Firearms officers (NIJ 3A, Standard stab vest level only)

Withheld under the Section 24 (1) National Security and Section 31 (1) Law Enforcement.

3) is the body armour Stab and spike resistant along with firearm level, will it protect against rounds fired from their weapons?

Withheld under the Section 24 (1) National Security and Section 31 (1) Law Enforcement.

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

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office