



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager
Ministry of Defence Police
Palmer Pavilion,
Building 666,
RAF Wyton, Huntingdon,
Cambs, PE28 2EA

E-mail: MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2022/11096

RFI: 210/22

Date: 14 October 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: RECORDED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS

We refer to your email dated 27 September 2022 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on 27 September 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:

I previously contacted you to explore the level of recorded intelligence reports you hold. Reference FOI2021/13050 refers to my previous request.

After my analysis I have identified the result of that FOI indicated that over the 10 year period between 2011-2020 the volume of recorded intelligence retained by your organization has decreased by approximately 44 %.

Q1: Please can you provide a rationale for why the number of recorded intelligence reports held by your police service has decreased during that time?

In addition, during the year 2020, the number of recorded intelligence reports held by your police service increased by approximately 10%.

Q2: Please can you provide a rationale for why, in contrast to preceding years, the number of recorded intelligence reports held by your police service increased during the year 2020? For example, new policy or practice regarding retention, increased intelligence regarding COVID breaches etc.

Finally, in your previous FOI response you also indicated that other information that is not technically classed as an 'intelligence report' may be held on other systems as your intelligence system is not the sole means of holding information about policing matters.

Q3: Please can you outline the names and nature of the other systems used to retain information or intelligence on policing matters?

Q4: Please can you also clarify if front line police officers (999, CBM, CID etc.) routinely have access to these systems to inform their day to day policing functions? i.e. crime prevention activity, criminal investigation etc.

Q5: If they do not, please specify why?

Q6: Please also outline which personnel do have access to the systems? i.e. intelligence analysts, digital forensic officers, department managers etc. ?

Q7: if not used by frontline officers, please also specify what purposes this information is routinely used i.e. criminal intelligence analysis, as evidence in criminal investigations etc.

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

I previously contacted you to explore the level of recorded intelligence reports you hold. Reference FOI2021/13050 refers to my previous request.

After my analysis I have identified the result of that FOI indicated that over the 10 year period between 20011-2020 the volume of recorded intelligence retained by your organization has decreased by approximately 44 %.

Q1: Please can you provide a rationale for why the number of recorded intelligence reports held by your police service has decreased during that time?

This is not a valid request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) as you are asking for opinion rather than recorded information. In our response to FOI2021/13050 we advised that no inferences could be drawn by the count of intelligence reports recorded per year.

In addition, during the year 2020, the number of recorded intelligence reports held by your police service increased by approximately 10%.

Q2: Please can you provide a rationale for why, in contrast to preceding years, the number of recorded intelligence reports held by your police service increased during the year 2020? For example, new policy or practice regarding retention, increased intelligence regarding COVID breaches etc.

This is not a valid request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) as you are asking for opinion rather than recorded information. In our response to FOI2021/13050 we advised that no inferences could be drawn by the count of intelligence reports recorded per year.

Finally, in your previous FOI response you also indicated that other information that is not technically classed as an 'intelligence report' may be held on other systems as your intelligence system is not the sole means of holding information about policing matters.

Q3: Please can you outline the names and nature of the other systems used to retain information or intelligence on policing matters?

In our response to FOI2021/13050 we advised that no inferences could be drawn by the count of intelligence reports recorded per year. We did not indicate, however, that other information, not technically classed as an 'intelligence report', may be held on other systems.

The Ministry of Defence Police use UNIFI for crime and intelligence recording.

Q4: Please can you also clarify if front line police officers (999, CBM, CID etc.) routinely have access to these systems to inform their day to day policing functions? i.e. crime prevention activity, criminal investigation etc.

All police officers have the ability to conduct intelligence checks but access to police intelligence is strictly managed with the use of handling restrictions. This is to protect the source of intelligence and prevent any inadvertent or unlawful disclosures.

Q5: If they do not, please specify why?

Please see the response to Q4.

Q6: Please also outline which personnel do have access to the systems? i.e. intelligence analysts, digital forensic officers, department managers etc. ?

Please see the response to Q4.

I have completed a public interest test and concluded that the public interest favours not releasing information about who has access to intelligence. I am withholding this information in accordance with FOI exemption Section 31(1)(a) Law enforcement as providing it may undermine the prevention or detection of crime and the administration of justice.

Q7: If not used by frontline officers, please also specify what purposes this information is routinely used i.e. criminal intelligence analysis, as evidence in criminal investigations etc.

I have completed a public interest test and concluded that the public interest favours not releasing information about the purposes for which intelligence is routinely used. I am withholding this information in accordance with FOI exemption Section 31(1)(a) Law enforcement as providing it may undermine the prevention or detection of crime and the administration of justice.

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

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office