



Ministry  
of Defence

Defence Equipment and Support  
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Ministry of Defence  
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Email: DES SEC-PolSec LE-JSC-WPNS@mod.uk

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[Redacted]

email: [Redacted]

Our Reference:  
FOI2023/01548  
Date:  
22 February 2023

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Dear [Redacted]

I am writing about your email of 06 February 2023, requesting the following information:

*I am considering purchasing an ex MOD Honda XR 400 motorcycle cycle registration number SL 99 AA and would like to obtain information relating to this vehicle ( history, service record etc) I have looked on Merlin and believe that because this was an ex SAS machine information is very limited.*

*Could you please provide me with more information?*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act).

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 attached, as follows:

- Annex A - Ownership History of SL99AA (redacted)

It has proved necessary to withhold some information in accordance with qualified exemptions of the FOI Act. Some of the Ownership History (Annex A) relating to sensitive units with which this vehicle served has been redacted under the qualified exemptions S26(1)(a) (Defence) and Section 38(1)(a) (Health and Safety).

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.

However, releasing the information redacted under Sections 26 and 38 in the Ownership History (Annex A) would divulge information that could be used to compromise the ability of UK Armed Forces to carry out operations safely by revealing information about capabilities and actions which would assist adversaries in planning attacks against personnel and

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equipment. This would likely endanger the lives of Armed Forces personnel and disrupt or limit military operations and capabilities.

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](mailto: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 Policy Secretariat

