



Ministry
of Defence

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

[Redacted]
email: [Redacted]

Our Reference:
FOI2023/02890
Date:
15 March 2023

Dear [Redacted]

I am writing about your email of 04 March 2023, requesting the following information:

In particular, I am looking at the retirement from service of FV103 Spartan armoured personnel carrier, registration 04 FF 35.

Could you provide the following details:

- 1. When was this vehicle originally purchased by the Ministry of Defence?*
- 2. When was this vehicle withdrawn from British Army service?*
- 3. Which was the last unit to operate this vehicle?*
- 4. When was the vehicle sold by the Ministry of Defence?*
- 5. Who bought this vehicle?*
- 6. How much did the Ministry of Defence receive in payment for the vehicle?*

I am treating 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 I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

Q1: *When was this vehicle originally purchased by the Ministry of Defence?*

Vehicle 04FF35 entered service on 01 November 1980.

Q2: *When was this vehicle withdrawn from British Army service?*

Vehicle 04FF35 was declared for disposal and withdrawn from use on 09 June 2021.

Q3: *Which was the last unit to operate this vehicle?*

The last military unit to hold vehicle 04FF35 was 8 Armoured Engineer Squadron.

Q4: *When was the vehicle sold by the Ministry of Defence?*

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Vehicle 04FF35 was sold on 23 March 2022.

Q5: Who bought this vehicle?

It has proved necessary to withhold this information in accordance with absolute exemption Section 40(2) (Personal Information). S40(2) of FOIA provides that personal data of another individual is exempt if its disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998. The MOD considers that the information withheld consists of personal data of a third party and that disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing. This is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Q6: How much did the Ministry of Defence receive in payment for the vehicle?

It has proved necessary to withhold this information in accordance with qualified exemption Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests). 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). Releasing information on the sale price of this vehicle prejudice the MOD's commercial interests by impacting on its ability to sell equipment in the future and to obtain the best value for the taxpayer.

Given the arguments described above, on balance, it was determined that the information should be withheld under Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests). 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 Policy Secretariat