



Ministry
of Defence

Fraud Defence
Ministry of Defence
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FOI Request 2023/02522

27 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2023 requesting the following information:

- “1. How many weapons (by type) and explosive munitions for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as (a) lost and (b) stolen in 2022?
2. Please provide a list of all stolen items, value and location of the theft of all items that were recorded stolen in the 2022 calendar year.
3. How many department computers, laptops, memory sticks were lost/stolen by month since January 2022?”*

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, and I can confirm that some of the information in scope of your request is held.

1. How many weapons (by type) and explosive munitions for which the Department has responsibility have been recorded as (a) lost and (b) stolen in 2022?

Source - Defence Security

Weapons: Type	Quantity	Lost/Stolen
Glock 43X Pistol	1	Lost
GPMG	1	Lost
Deactivated AK47 Rifle	1	Lost

Explosive Munitions: Type	Quantity	Lost/Stolen
5.56mm	167	Lost
7.62mm	625	Lost
9mm	40	Lost
4.6mm	13	Lost
12.7mm	1	Lost

The MOD takes the security of firearms and ammunition very seriously and has robust procedures to deter and prevent losses and thefts which are constantly reviewed. The lost AK47 Rifle was certified deactivated and cannot be reconverted to a lethal purpose weapon. Most ammunition losses occur as a result of accidental loss during exercises or on operations.

2. Please provide a list of all stolen items, value and location of the theft of all items that were recorded stolen in the 2022 calendar year. - Please see table at Annex A

Under section 23(5) (Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters) the MOD neither confirms nor denies whether there is additional information in scope of your request. This is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test. This should not be taken as an indication that additional information is or is not held by the department.

The MOD works hard to detect and deter theft and there are robust processes in place to raise awareness of the need for vigilance in all aspects of security. Just as theft occurs in wider society, the MOD is not immune, and we actively encourage individuals to report any evidence of loss or suspicion of theft. It is important to note that in some cases of reported theft the property is later recovered. In the case of key assets however, MOD sites have a wide range of additional security measures to ensure their safety.

Please note that this response only lists those items where the cases have been closed within the time frame specified and the completed investigations established that items were stolen.

3. How many department computers, laptops, memory sticks were lost/stolen by month since January 2022?

Using the Defence Incident Management Database, the following numbers were retrieved for the Loss/Theft of Department Computers, Laptops and USB sticks by month since Jan 2022 from incidents that were raised and closed in 2022. Some of the losses can be attributed to accounting errors.

Source - ISS Defence Assurance and Information Security (DAIS)

Month	Computers	Laptops	USBs	Total
Jan - 2022	1	5	0	6
Feb - 2022	0	13	2	15
Mar - 2022	1	7	1	9
Apr - 2022	2	39	2	43
May - 2022	0	9	3	12
Jun - 2022	0	11	1	12
Jul - 2022	0	5	2	7
Aug - 2022	0	4	2	6
Sep - 2022	0	4	0	4
Oct - 2022	0	1	1	2
Nov - 2022	0	8	12	20
Dec - 2022	1	5	5	11
Total	5	111	31	147

The MOD is a very large organisation which employs over 229,000 personnel¹ worldwide. All breaches of security are taken very seriously. MOD Policy requires all breaches to be reported regardless of whether there is firm evidence of loss or just an inability to account for some devices. All incidents are subjected to an initial security risk assessment with further action taken on a proportionate basis.

It is also MOD policy that all laptop, tablet computers and removable media are encrypted to minimise the impact if a loss were to occur. Investigations indicate that many of the losses identified are in fact accounting errors highlighted by security mustering processes.

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.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

Fraud Defence

¹ Source: Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21

All items centrally reported stolen in the 2022 calendar year – *source: Fraud Defence*

Items stolen	Location	Alleged offence value where recorded	Items recovered or partial recovery
Head mounted night vision system (HMNVS), empty SA80 A2 magazine	Kenya	£2768.64	No
Rocker assembly	Kenya	£180.83	No
General Service Respirator, 2 x Helmet.	Bristol	£281.35	No
Silverware	Cottesmore	£30000.00	No
Helmet.	Colchester	£374.00	No
Bergen, containing Visor, mandible, Glock 17 magazine, 3x 5.56mm magazines	Colchester	£0.00	No
Bike	Perham Down	£458.00	No
Bergen	Brize Norton	£0.00	No
Toolbox	Lyneham	£600.00	No
Helmet	London	£350.84	No
Land Rover	Kenya	£15001.00	No
Tent, poles, rations	Kenya	£0.00	No
4kg medicine ball, 3 x sets of Hammer Strength dumbbells, weights 2.5kg, 5kg & 6kg	Aldergrove	£335.94	No
Toolbox	Oman	£600.87	No
12 x Land rover wheels	Middle Wallop	£1092.00	No
Service eqpt	Tidworth	£0.00	No
General Service Respirator	Colchester	£78.10	No
2 x Light Wheeled Tractor Tyres	Kenya	£450.68	No
5 x Cab struts	Salisbury	£458.00	No
ANR headset	Perham down	£1134.01	No
drill kit and battery	HMNB Portsmouth	£205.00	No
GoPro Hero	Yeovilton	£358.80	No
Airlite Headset	HMS Queen Elizabeth	£758.61	No
Helmet	Tidworth	£350.84	No
46 x General Service Respirators	Hampshire	£0.00	No
Silverware and Speaker	RAF Boulmer	£3879.00	No
4 x vehicle batteries.	Kenya	£420.00	No
Laptop	Bristol	£1000.00	No
Receiver Transmitter, Antenna, 4 x Personal role radio (PRR), 4 x Antenna PRR, 4 x Switch Dual, Samsung Galaxy tablet	Newcastle	£12022.42	No
Body Armour and plates	London	£0.00	Yes

Items stolen	Location	Alleged offence value where recorded	Items recovered or partial recovery
New Turbo Charger, Old Turbo Charger	Kenya	£884.00	No
Sony Xperia mobile phone, Charger	N Ireland	£150.00	No
solid silver ship, Ships bell Drums	Chesterfield	£0.00	No
General service respirator, body armour with filler and plates	Hampshire	£0.00	No
Helmets	Catterick	£0.00	No
Cash	Lichfield	£660.00	No
16 x sleeping bags, 14 x cot beds, 18 x compression sacks	RAF Boulmer	£0.00	No
Service eqpt	Kenya	£2735.80	No
7 x Peli cases	Worthy Down	£5151.44	No
Multi meter	HMNB Devonport	£0.00	No