



# Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2023/05642

RFI: 130/23

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: ARRESTS OF ENVIROMENTAL PROTESTORS.**

We refer to your email dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 to the Ministry of Defence which was acknowledged on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 by The Ministry of Defence Police.

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'm writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to ask that you please disclose to me information relating to records kept on people arrested on ideological grounds (including but not limited to protest action).**

**Specifically I'd like to know how many individuals from the following groups have been arrested for the years 2021 and 2022:**

**Extinction Rebellion, Ocean Rebellion, Coal Action Network, Right to Roam, Earth First, Youth Strike 4 Climate, Rising Tide, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Burning Pink, Tree Defenders, Fossil Free, Just Stop Oil, Insulate Britain, HS2 Rebellion (or anti-HS2 protestors), or any other relevant groups falling into the broad field of climate activism and education.**

**Alternatively, if the information cannot be split that way, would it instead be available by more broad key fields like "environmental protests" or "climate protest", as this would be preferable so as not to miss out on people included from smaller groups. Any way it can be made available would be fine, but to clarify, I'm not seeking the personal information of anyone involved, nor do I need to know the specific reason for arrest beyond it being related to action within an environmental group, or whether (or which) covert tactics or policing methods were used to make the arrests.**

**Ideally, just the base figures of either how many people from this group have been arrested (or times have people been arrested. as I, aware the same person could get arrested on multiple occasions), or how many times individuals have been arrested for engaging in climate action.**

**If the information still cannot be retrieved due to cost, then I'd like to request that the information regarding people arrested during such protests is made available to me in whatever form it can be (redacted as necessary) so that I can manually sift through this information, so as to avoid going over cost limit for the Act (if, for example) it's split into protest and technically searchable, but a large data set).**

**If however information can be given such as "disruption", or if alternatively, this information would have recorded been under certain acts or offensive, such as anti-protest legislation, terrorism, or a specific category made for ease of reference for this type of case, then please could you advise the best way in which to hone down in that way for both my own ease and ease of the processor of the request. If this is how it's recorded, then I'd like to know under which legislation the arrests have been made, please.**

**I'd like to know, if possible, the easiest form this would be retrievable in, as I'm aware different forces will record things on different systems, but that there will likely be common ways in which records are kept by the individual forces. A spreadsheet with the group or ideology, number of arrests, and non-essentially for the offences.**

A search for information has now been completed I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence Police do hold information in scope of your request. Please note that information is only held back to August 2021.

**Specifically I'd like to know how many individuals from the following groups have been arrested for the years 2021 and 2022:**

**Extinction Rebellion, Ocean Rebellion, Coal Action Network, Right to Roam, Earth First, Youth Strike 4 Climate, Rising Tide, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Burning Pink, Tree Defenders, Fossil Free, Just Stop Oil, Insulate Britain, HS2 Rebellion (or anti-HS2 protestors), or any other relevant groups falling into the broad field of climate activism and education.**

From August 2021 – December 2022 8 people were arrested by The Ministry of Defence Police that were involved in Environmental Protests, all were from the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) group . 1 of the 8 arrested had been arrested before.

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**