



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 2023/07221

RFI: 148/23

Date: 20 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: DISPOSAL OF POLICE UNIFORM CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

We refer to your email dated 09 June 2023 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the 12 June 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:

Please could I have a copy of any agreements between MDP and the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority or its predecessors for the disposal of Police uniform clothing and equipment?

How much income has been generated by MOD Police between 2022 and today's date through payments from the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority regarding the disposal of Police uniforms?

During the last 5 years has MOD Police audited the process for the disposal of Police Uniform by the Police and the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority or their nominated contractor Field Textiles, and any sub-contractors used by Field Textiles.

Has MOD Police carried out any vetting in line with National Police Personnel Vetting regarding the Disposal of Police Uniforms by Field Textiles or their subcontractors and their personnel employed to collect or process uniforms for disposal?

Has MOD Police audited or made any enquiries into subcontractors used by the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority, such as checking that they hold a waste carriers licence issued by the environment agency or visited locations where uniform is taken for disposal by subcontractors and the security of such vehicles and sites used to transport and store police uniform during the disposal process?

Please could I have a copy of any recent policy documents related to the disposal of police uniforms and what agreements exist between MOD Police and any third parties associated with the secure disposal of Police uniforms, transport by third parties and onward removal and storage?

Could I have a copy of any records related to the disposal of uniforms over the last 12 months held by MOD Police, such as collection manifests, emails and any other communications or documents, such as communication between MOD Police and the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority, Field Textiles or any sub contactors used to collect uniform?

Could you please provide copies of any Duty of Care waste transfer note forms provided to MOD Police by the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority or their nominated contractor Field Textiles and any subcontractors used by Field Textiles during the last 12 months to collect police uniform for disposal?

How many bags of Police Uniform has been disposed of by MOD Police in the last 12 months?

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

Please could I have a copy of any agreements between MDP and the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority or its predecessors for the disposal of Police uniform clothing and equipment?

Defence Equipment Sales Authority (DESA) work with other Ministry of Defence (MOD) business areas under Service Level Agreements (SLA), with recent Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) disposals conducted through the Specialist Destruction Framework. Release of documentation is exempt inline with Sections 24, 41 and 43 of the FOI Act.

How much income has been generated by MOD Police between 2022 and today's date through payments from the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority regarding the disposal of Police uniforms?

With the majority of MDP clothing being considered as Attractive to Terrorist and Criminal Organisations (ACTO), most of the stock has been destroyed, with some clothing recycled for other organisations approved by the MOD. No income has been generated.

During the last 5 years has MOD Police audited the process for the disposal of Police Uniform by the Police and the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority or their nominated contractor Field Textiles, and any sub-contractors used by Field Textiles.

MDP are not involved in the auditing of DESA Contractors. The Defence Internal Audit (DIA) team are tasked with auditing DESA contractors.

Has MOD Police carried out any vetting in line with National Police Personnel Vetting regarding the Disposal of Police Uniforms by Field Textiles or their subcontractors and their personnel employed to collect or process uniforms for disposal?

MDP are not responsible for the vetting of contractor personnel.

Has MOD Police audited or made any enquiries into subcontractors used by the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority, such as checking that they hold a waste carriers licence issued by the environment agency or visited locations where uniform is taken for disposal by subcontractors and the security of such vehicles and sites used to transport and store police uniform during the disposal process?

MDP are not involved in auditing of DESA Contractors.

Please could I have a copy of any recent policy documents related to the disposal of police uniforms and what agreements exist between MOD Police and any third parties associated with the secure disposal of Police uniforms, transport by third parties and onward removal and storage?

MDP and DESA retain documentation relating to the disposal of police uniforms. Release of documentation is exempt inline with Sections 24, 41 and 43 of the FOI Act.

Could I have a copy of any records related to the disposal of uniforms over the last 12 months held by MOD Police, such as collection manifests, emails and any other communications or documents, such as communication between MOD Police and the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority, Field Textiles or any subcontractors used to collect uniform?

MDP and DESA retain documentation relating to the disposal of police uniforms. Release of documentation is exempt inline with Sections 24, 41 and 43 of the FOI Act. We can neither confirm or deny that we hold information relating to Field Textiles under Sections 24 and 41.

Could you please provide copies of any Duty of Care waste transfer note forms provided to MOD Police by the Ministry of Defence Equipment Sales Authority or their nominated contractor Field Textiles and any subcontractors used by Field Textiles during the last 12 months to collect police uniform for disposal?

MDP and DESA retain documentation relating to the disposal of police uniforms. Release of documentation is exempt inline with Sections 24, 41 and 43 of the FOI Act. We can neither confirm or deny that we hold information relating to Field Textiles under Sections 24 and 41.

How many bags of Police Uniform has been disposed of by MOD Police in the last 12 months?

Disposals are quantified by pallets. 315 pallets of uniform and ancillary equipment have been disposed of in the last 12 months.

The following exemptions are engaged in relation to your request:

Section 24 – National Security.

Section 41 - Information provided in confidence.

Section 43 – Commercial Interest.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption and no Public Interest is required.

Sections 24 and 43 are prejudice based qualified exemptions and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in releasing, and in some cases, confirming or denying, that we hold information as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Section 24 is engaged as releasing information relating to the processes for disposing of ACTO would compromise current or future operations to protect the security or critical national infra-structure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public. Section 24(2) provides an exclusion from the duty to confirm or deny whether information is held. This exclusion applies if confirming or denying that information is held would render security measures less effective.

Section 41 is engaged as we are satisfied that all criteria can be met in line with the Commissioner's guidance. Section 41(2) provides an exclusion from the duty to confirm or deny whether information is held. This exclusion applies if confirming or denying that information is held would in itself give rise to a breach of confidence.

Section 43 is engaged as providing data relating to contract providers would prejudice the departments commercial relationships and provide a competitive advantage to competing bidders, which would undermine the entire contractual process.

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