



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager
Ministry of Defence Police
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E-mail: MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk

Our Ref: eCase: FOI2023/10893

RFI: 202/23

Date: 28th September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: COMPUTER INFORMATION.

We refer to your email dated 6th September 2023 to the Ministry of Defence, which we acknowledged on the 6th September 2023.

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:

Q1) How many computers within your force run the Windows XP operating system?

Q2) What is the total number of fax machines currently in use by your force?

Q3) What is the total number of pagers currently in use in your force?

Q4) How much did your force spend on a) printers and b) paper scanners c) pagers in 2022.

Q5) How much did your force spend on postage in each of the past 5 years?

A search has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm we do hold information in scope of your request.

Q1) How many computers within your force run the Windows XP operating system?

The Ministry of Defence Police can neither confirm nor deny that information is held relevant to your request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 24(2) National Security

Section 31(3) Law Enforcement

Sections 24 and 31 being prejudice based qualified exemptions, both evidence of harm and public interest considerations need to be articulated to the applicant.

Policing is an information-led activity, and information assurance (which includes information security) is fundamental to how the Police Service manages the challenges faced. In order to comply with statutory requirements, the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice for Information Assurance has been put in place to ensure the delivery of core operational policing by providing appropriate and consistent protection for the information assets of member organisations, see below link:

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/information-management/>

To confirm or deny whether The Ministry of Defence Police uses a certain operating system would identify vulnerable computer systems and provide actual knowledge, or not, that this software is used within individual force areas. In addition, this would have a huge impact on the effective delivery of operational law enforcement as it would leave forces open to cyberattack which could render computer devices obsolete.

This type of information would be extremely beneficial to offenders, including terrorists and terrorist organisations. It is vitally important that information sharing takes place with other police forces and security bodies within the UK to support counter-terrorism measures in the fight to deprive terrorist networks of their ability to commit crime.

To confirm or deny whether or not The Ministry of Defence Police relies on a certain operating system would be extremely useful to those involved in terrorist activity as it would enable them to map vulnerable information security databases.

Q2) What is the total number of fax machines currently in use by your force?

0

Q3) What is the total number of pagers currently in use in your force?

0

Q4) How much did your force spend on

a) printers - 0

b) paper scanners - 0

c) pagers in 2022. - 0

Q5) How much did your force spend on postage in each of the past 5 years?

No information held – This is managed centrally for the Ministry of Defence.

If you are dissatisfied with 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). Internal review requests 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