



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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Our ref: FOI2024/02570

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Via email:

11 April 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 March 2024 requesting the following information:

“With regard to the transfer of non-nuclear parts of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon systems under the US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement, how many parts have been transferred in each year from the US to the UK and vice versa, since 1st January 2020 to date? I would like this information broken down into categories, if possible, identifying the type of system that the part is used for and its broad purpose (eg warhead electronics, submarine sonar component etc), but I would be happy to receive the information in the form it is currently held if this is not possible.”

Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). We can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information in scope of your request, on the number of non-nuclear parts of nuclear weapons and weapons systems transferred each year from the US to the UK and vice versa since the start of 2020. This information is provided in the table below:

Calendar Year	Transfers from US to UK (Single Items)	Transfers from UK to US (Single Items)
2020	128	14
2021	271	25
2022	302	31
2023	254	38

Under Section 16(1) of the Act public authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance, so far as it is reasonable to expect the authority to do so. You may find it helpful to note that the MOD is not able to provide any information on the number of transfers in 2024 as the data is yet to be finalised. We note that your request also asks for what each part is used for, if possible, and we must advise you that answering this part of your request would have exceeded the appropriate limit under Section 12 of the Act. Furthermore, it should be noted that even if the MOD was able to comply with this element of the request without exceeding the appropriate limit, the information held may fall within scope of other exemptions under the Act.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact this office in the first instance at the address above. If informal resolution is not possible then you may 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 take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. They 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 their website, <https://ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Nuclear Organisation Secretariat