



Ministry
of Defence



DE&S Policy Secretariat

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Defence Equipment & Support
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Reference: FOI2025/02897

25 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 05 February 2025, requesting the following information:

1. *The total number of condoms purchased by the Ministry of Defence for service personnel, broken down by year, from August 2021 (specifically from when condoms were supplied centrally via the Logistics, Commodities and Services Transformation (LCST) contract) until December 31, 2024.*
2. *The total expenditure on these condom purchases through the LCST contract, broken down by year, for the same period.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held. I can confirm that the total expenditure on condoms supplied through the Logistics, Commodities and Services Transformation (LCST) contract from August 2021 to 31 December 2024 is as follows:

Financial Year	Spend (inc-VAT)	Notes
21/22	£3,653.73	From August 2021
22/23	£14,306.61	
23/24	£15,176.09	
24/25	£7,952.85	Until 31 December 2024
Total	£41,089.28	

It has proved necessary to withhold some information in accordance with qualified exemption Section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the FOI Act. Section 43 concerns information which if disclosed would or would likely prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including defence contractors and the public authority holding it).

As this exemption is qualified, it was necessary to undertake a Public Interest Test to determine whether the balance for withholding the information outweighs that for disclosure. General arguments in favour of release were that full disclosure would demonstrate the MOD's commitment to openness and transparency; and make the UK Government more accountable to the electorate. The FOI Act also contains a presumption for release. However, releasing

information on the quantities of condoms purchased would allow a calculation to be made to determine the unit purchase cost paid by the MOD for these items. Disclosing commercially sensitive information such as unit purchase costs would have a chilling effect on the MOD's corporate commercial reputation with current and future suppliers. Companies could be deterred from bidding for contracts and sharing commercially sensitive information with the MOD which they would not normally divulge to third parties if they are unsure about whether their information would be protected. This would have a direct impact on the ability of the MOD to obtain best value for money for the taxpayer when conducting competitions.

Given the arguments described above, on balance, it was determined that the information should be withheld under Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests). The level of prejudice against release of this exempted information has been set at "would be likely to".

Under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the FOI Act I must advise you that this information relates to the total spend on condoms under the LCST contract, not the spend solely on condoms for service personnel; as you were informed in the response to your previous FOI request, reference number FOI2025/02599, the condoms made available in locations such as Defence Medical Centres and welfare units are free for people to take whether they are serving personnel or not, for public health reasons and the MOD does not capture information on the final end-user of every condom purchased through the LCST.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance. 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,

DE&S Policy Secretariat