



Ministry  
of Defence

[REDACTED]  
Policy Secretariat

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Ministry of Defence  
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Your Reference:

Our Reference:  
[REDACTED]

Date:

6 June 2014

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email dated 7 May 2014. You asked:

***Does the MOD use Halal or Kosher meat in its meals?***

***If so how much? (percentage)***

***What measures does the MOD have in place in its supply chain to check on animal welfare?***

***Does the MOD tell its staff/personnel that the meat is halal or kosher?***

***How much did the MOD spend in the years 2012-2013, 2013-2014 on meat - and how much of this was kosher/halal?***

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

It might be helpful if I first explained that Armed Forces personnel serving on operations, UK and overseas exercises and HM Ships and Submarines, are catered for under a single food supply contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions Ltd (PFS). The PFS contract includes the provision of Operational Ration Packs (ORP).

MOD personnel in the UK and permanent bases overseas are primarily catered for through a number of catering, retail, leisure and other multi-activity contracts to deliver catering and other services.

The MOD does use Halal and Kosher meat in its meals. Information on the percentage of meat (Halal, Kosher or otherwise) used and the cost of purchase is not held by the MOD. This is a matter for the contractors.

All food procured for MOD personnel must comply with MOD food quality standards. These standards comply with all UK and EU production standards, Farm Assurance or equivalent. This includes the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

MOD policy is in line with current UK legislation and Government guidelines and while there is no requirement for a menu to state that a dish may or may not contain halal or Kosher meat, service and entitled civilian personnel with special dietary requirements are fully informed as to which dishes are suitable for them to eat. ORP are produced in several variants: general purpose, vegetarian, Sikh/Hindu, Halal and Kosher. This allows the MOD to cater for a broad range of dietary requirements in an operational theatre or during training exercises.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

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 Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely



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