



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building,
Whitehall
London, SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Ref: 2015/00063

E-mail address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

27 Feb 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 3 January 2015 requesting the following information:

"I am writing to request an electronic copy of the following document: DI CA-Land: The Conventional Weapons Threat to Land Forces in Afghanistan. The document is referenced on page 1 of Defence Intelligence Threat Statement: The Insurgent Weapons Arsenal (Afghanistan), which is dated 2 December 2010 and was released, with redactions, in response to an FOI request. Properly classified information and documents already in the public domain (e.g. media clippings, press releases, etc) are outside the scope of this request. However, we request that any segregable unclassified information not already available in the public domain be released".

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 a document in scope of your request is held.

Some of the information within the requested document falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at Section 40(2) (Personal data) and qualified exemptions provided for at Sections 24 (National Security), 26 (Defence) and 27 (International Relations) of the FOIA.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information. This information is exempt from release and is therefore redacted.

Section 24, 26 and 27 are qualified exemptions and are subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure. I have conducted the public interest test and find that the balance of public interest is against the disclosure of some information contained in the document to be released. This information is exempt from release and is therefore redacted; under Section 24 as it must be withheld in order to safeguard national security, under Section 26 (1) (b) (Armed Forces Capability and Security) as its release would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our Armed Forces and under Section 27 as its release would be likely to prejudice the UK's international relations or the UK's interests abroad.

A copy of the requested document containing those parts which can be released is attached.

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, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail 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,

Joint Forces Command, Defence Intelligence Secretariat