

From: XXXXXXXXXXX, Assistant Director, Sustainable Development Policy



Ministry of Defence



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Your reference: *Total MOD
greenhouse gas emissions enquiry
21/04/2008*
Our Reference: 12-05-2008-142741-003
Date
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Request for Information

Dear Mr XXXXXX,

Thank you for your email dated 21 April 2008 requesting information on the total volume of Greenhouse gasses used by UK Armed Forces.

In response to your question I will focus on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions as these form the large majority of MOD Greenhouse Gas emissions. However, be assured that we are addressing our emissions of all Greenhouse Gasses (for example our commitment to European Regulation 2037:2000, enforcing the Montreal Protocol to reduce our use of Ozone depleting substances) as part of our everyday work.

The MOD takes its obligations for protecting the environment very seriously and has challenging environmental policies in place, including on tackling climate change through reducing our CO₂ emissions. We are fully committed to meeting cross-government targets to reduce emissions from the defence estate and business travel and are a key player in efforts to ensure that government procurement is increasingly sustainable.

To monitor and continually improve its climate change performance, the Department collects information on energy used in the buildings on the estate, on fuel used by the armed forces and on business travel. From this it is possible to estimate the CO₂ emissions that result directly from MOD's activities and this information is published in the MOD's Sustainable Development Reports and by the Sustainable Development Commission.

For 2005/6, the latest year for which we have collated the total figures, it is estimated that MOD emitted nearly 5.5 million tonnes of CO₂, which amounts approximately to 1% of the UK's total emissions.

CO₂ emissions overseas are included in MOD's total figure where they derive from fuel supplied by MOD. The figures above do not include emissions directly resulting from UK operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Based upon the available data for quantities of aviation and ground fuel supplied in these operational theatres, it is estimated that the average annual CO₂ emissions directly attributable to the deployment of British military forces in Afghanistan and Iraq currently total approximately 250,000 tonnes and 200,000 tonnes respectively. This is additional to the 5.5 million tonnes figure quoted above.

The CO₂ emissions from the MOD's built estate comprise approximately a third of the Department's total emissions. Emissions from the armed forces' use of aviation and marine fuel form the bulk of the remainder. Those from military aircraft and naval vessels have fallen steadily over recent years as a result of force restructuring and the introduction of new training practices and equipment.

In common with all aviation and marine fuels used in commercial shipping and aviation, MOD's use is not counted as part of the UK's national emissions under the terms of the Kyoto Protocol. The data from such activities are, however, used by Government in determining the best policies to reduce the country's overall CO₂ emissions.

I trust this reply answers your questions satisfactorily.

Yours sincerely,

XXXXXXXXXX

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If you are unhappy 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 Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail info-XD@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 are still unhappy 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.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.