Ref: FOI2022/11948

███████
████████████

E-mail: DST-Secretariat@mod.gov.uk

11 January 2023

Dear Mr Burt,

Thank you for your email of 12 August requesting the following information:

"Please provide me with a list of the titles of each of the 'over 200' AI-related programmes referred to in this statement." [Defence AI Strategy]

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 some information in scope of your request is held.

The Defence AI Strategy was developed over several years in collaboration with stakeholders from across Defence and external partners. Our assessment of AI-related projects and programmes drew on a data collection exercise that was undertaken in 2019 that identified approximately 140 activities underway across the Front-Line Commands, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) and other organisations. Some of these projects have since ended and other activities have begun since this data was collected, however we do not maintain a single central list due to the potential ubiquity of these technologies and the nature of the Defence Operating Model. Moreover, some activities – notably back office corporate services projects – were not included on the initial list. Our assessment that there were at least 200 programmes in total when the strategy was published was based on our understanding of the totality of activity underway across the department at the time.

The original list of the project and programme titles is enclosed at **Annex A**. Some of the information contained in this list falls within the scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at Sections 26 (Defence) and 27 (International) of the FOIA and has been redacted.

Sections 26 and 27 provide 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.

Section 26(1)(b) has been applied to some of the information because it contains details which are operationally sensitive and would prejudice the capability and effectiveness of our armed forces. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing any details that would provide tactical advantage to our enemies. For these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to". Any further summary of the public interest test has been withheld under S17(4) as a further explanation of the public interest test would in itself be harmful.

Section 27(1)(a) has been applied because some of the information has the potential to adversely affect relations with our allies. The balance of the public interest test concluded that whilst release would increase public understanding and confidence in the relations the United Kingdom has with other international states in its science and technology capabilities, the balance of the public interest lay in withholding this information you desire. I have considered it necessary to apply the higher level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to". Any further summary of the public interest test has been withheld under S17(4) as a further explanation of the public interest test would in itself be harmful.

Under section 23(5) (Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters) the MOD neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any additional information in scope of your request, which if held would be exempt under section 23. Section 23 is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, Ground 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 normally 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.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Science & Technology Secretariat

700 X
AI & Autonomous Systems Experimentation & Development Hub (AI Centre)
AI for Predictive Maintenance - CH47
Antibiotics, Antibodies & Autophagy
Athena
Automated Disposal
Autonomous Devices
Change Detection
Collective Training Transformation Programme - Project Connectivity
COMBAT AID Computer Battlefield Assistance in Trauma Care and Injury Decision Support
Commercial RPA
Counter-UAS
Defence Digital AI Centre of Expertise
Defence Digital Analytical Platform (DDAP)
Defence Digital Foundry (incorporating a recognisable Defence AI Centre)
Emerging Technologies for Defence Programme: Alan Turing Institute Project (Link to line 92)
Enhanced C2 Spearhead (EC2SPHD)
Flexible Tactical Unmanned Air System (FTUAS)
Foresense Prototype
Foundry
Fusion and Sensor Exploitation (FUSE)
Future Combat Air System Technology Initiative (FCAS TI) & FMC Combat Air Acquisition
    Programme
Geollect
Glider Comms
Ground Autonomous Logistic Resupply
HECLA
Hydra (Robust Autonomy at Scale)
Intelligent C2
Intelligent Ship
Joint Tactical Autonomous Resupply and Replenishment (JTARR) Derisk
Land Analysis
Land Concept Demonstrators
Logistics Technology Investigations, Data science and analytics work package
Machine Learning for C2 and Mission Planning
Machine Scale Intelligence Analysis with Advanced Computing Techniques
Machine-Speed Multi Domain C2
Maritime Autonomy Framework
Medical Sciences
MilTech HQ
Mine Countermeasures and Hydrographic Capability (MHC)
MOD Digital Academy including the MOD Coding Scheme
Moonlight
Multi-Domain Integrated Swarm
NavyX
Nelson Route Survey Tasking & Analytics app dev
Networked Unmanned Air System (UAS) across Future Commando Force (FCF)
Nexus
NSOIT (Deployed)
ODYSSEY (successor to Big Data and PD-IXD)
Omniscient
Optimising Humans In Systems
Orca
Pers Admin Virtual Agent
Predictive Maintenance & Sustainment

Programme CORTISONE
Programme Nelson
Project HYDRA
Project Minerva (N.B duplicated project name)
Project MINERVA (Space Game Changer)
Project THESEUS
Project TME (Training Management and Evaluation)
Research titled "Full-Spectrum Knowledge Graph" for Dstl's 'Turing Project', Emerging
    Technologies for Defence (ETD) programme
Route Survey Tasking & Analytics
SPOTTER
STARTLE
T&E Futures
T26/T31e Offboard UXVs
The Defence and Security Strategic Partnership with The Alan Turing Institute
Underpinning Data Science
Unmanned Disruptor
Urban Canyon Sixth Sense (UC6S)
Utilisation of AI for managing the Army's talent
XL UUV