



DEFENCE ESTATES
Delivering Estate Solutions to Defence Needs

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Mr T Bryant

Your Ref

team@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref

07-04-2008-122440-003

Date

22 April 2008

Dear Mr Bryant

Request for Information: Former Royal Observer Corps (ROC) posts

Thank you for your enquiry dated 6 April 2008. This was passed to Defence Estates (DE), the Ministry of Defence (MOD) organisation responsible for managing the defence estate and has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

You asked about the locations and reference numbers of former ROC posts and who the land was passed to.

Whilst the MOD does hold some information relating to former ROC posts, this information is not comprehensive. It is held in various formats, in numerous archived files..

Section 12 of the FOI Act, states that a public authority is not obliged to deal with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the 'appropriate limit'. This limit is £600 and equates to 24 hours worth of effort on our part (calculated at £25/hour), roughly three and a half working days. It goes on to say that the public authority must provide advice and assistance to help the applicant refine the request so that information can be provided within the 'appropriate limit'.

It has been assessed that the costs involved in dealing with your request as it stands will exceed the £600 limit. Under the terms of Section 12, we are not obliged to comply with your request but if you have an interest in a particular site or sites please let me know.

You may already be aware that responsibility for these sites passed from the MOD to the Department of the Environment (DOE) in 1979. The DOE embarked on a disposals programme in the mid 1980s and I am told that the Home Office holds the record of sales.

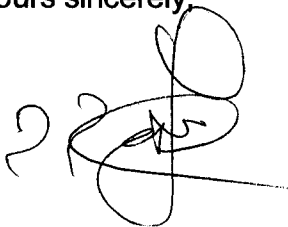
You may also be aware of a number of web sites that may provide information for your project, including: www.subbrit.org.uk, www.therocmuseum.org.uk and www.content-delivery.co.uk/aviation/airfields/roc

Finally, I am enclosing a copy of the MOD's 'Open Source' paper that contains details of other research sources of information that you might find useful.

I hope that this reply has been helpful but if you are unhappy with the 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 remain unhappy following an internal review, you may take the 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 the case until the internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and the powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioners website <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk> .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. J. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.

Enclosure: Open Source paper