



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

# Defence Infrastructure Organisation

DIOSec-SecPBFOI1

Mr F Dawson

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Ref: 18-10-2011-171421-021

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4 January 2011

Dear Mr Dawson,

## **Request for Environmental Information: Radium Land Contamination**

Thank you for your enquiry dated 2 December 2011. This was passed to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), the Ministry of Defence (MOD) body responsible for managing the defence estate and has been dealt with as a request for information in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You asked for information relating to those sites that are still contaminated with radium, have had radium disposed of by burial on site or are free from radium contamination.

I can confirm that the MOD holds information that falls within scope of your request:

- Remediation has been undertaken at Stirling Forthside, RAF Kinloss, RAF Machrihanish, the former DARA Fleetlands and the former RNAS Donnibristle,
- Remediation is planned for the former DARA Almondbank (in 2012 as part of the sale agreement) and RM Condor (where localised radium-226 contamination has recently been identified as part of the MOD Estate-wide Land Quality Assessment Programme).
- In the case of RAF Shawbury, RAF Henlow, RAF Little Rissington and RAF Newton, the localised radium contamination is subject to management controls. Similarly residual contamination within RAF Kinloss and the retained elements of Stirling Forthside are subject to management controls. In the time provided to respond to your request, further information about RS Anthon could not be located.
- I understand that the former HMS Daedalus and part of RAF Newton would have been sold with information concerning the known contamination. It is normal in cases where Land Quality Assessment (LQA) reports/information are produced, that this be provided to the purchaser whose responsibility it would then be, together with the Local Planning

Authority, to consider any contamination issues and ensure that the site is suitable for its new use. I can confirm that HMS Daedalus is currently held and managed by the Homes and Communities Agency.

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 Head of Corporate Information, 2nd 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, [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

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