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Dstl is part of the  
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Paul Ashby

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Our ref: FOI 2020/04933

Your ref:

Date: 14 May 2020

Dear Mr Ashby,

Thank you for your email of 26 April 2020 requesting the following information:

“Within the realms of State Security can the MOD please advise what the role of Porton Down is current in terms of research and efforts to beat the Covid 19 pandemic.

Whatever their role I wish them well and thank them for their endeavour's”.

We are 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 no information, in scope of your request is held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note, Dstl is currently providing scientists to support the cross-Departmental Government response in those areas of activity that it has expertise, predominantly testing of samples and operational analysis.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request 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.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly 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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Dstl Secretariat