Dear Mr Whyte,


Thank you for your request of 10 October 2012 in which you asked for the following information:

“Bedford Tipper Truck registration 01RH 93 was used to convey radioactive debris collected from Ground Zero two hours after detonation of both Pennant and Burgee Atomic bombs to the decontamination centre at 'B' Site. This vehicle was located in the forward area during the months of August and September 1958 when it was known the area was radioactive and was constantly driven in and out of the area now known as the "YELLOW" area but the vehicle was never de-contaminated. This radioactive vehicle was often used for recreation purposes of taking Servicemen to the Main Camp and the Port. The contaminated vehicle was never stopped when leaving the 'YELLOW' area nor were any checkpoints encountered. Could you please supply the following information.

1. Could you please supply the instructions which gave the individuals billeted in the forward area ('B' Site) permission to drive their contaminated vehicles, unhindered, into other areas of the Island that were alleged to be 'Clean.'?

2. Could you please supply me with the written instructions given that it was only vehicles used by the Civilian AWRE (now AWE)that were to be de-contaminated and vehicles used by Servicemen living in the forward area were excluded.

3. Please supply any information you may have, relating to the use of vehicle - Bedford QL Tipper Truck Registration No 01 RH 93 during the months of August, September and October 1958.”

In my email to you dated 17 October I confirmed that your request is considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.
I am writing to advise you that, following a search of paper and electronic records, I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does not hold any information that answers your specific questions. However, there is limited information within the scope of your request contained within a document titled 'Operation Grapple Z Interim Report'. This has been identified as including a small amount of generic information relating to vehicle decontamination in the Forward Area.

This is a public document available through The National Archive (TNA) and as such is considered to be exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act, because it is accessible to you in the public domain. It can be ordered from TNA with the reference ES 1/602. You can view the TNA catalogue entry via the following link.

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/displaycataloguedetails.asp?CATLN=6&CATID=407244&SearchInit=4&SearchType=6&CATREF=ES+1%2F602

Alternatively, you may wish to contact the TNA by telephone on 020 8876 3444 or write to The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU.

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, http://www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Policy Secretariat