



Ministry of Defence

Army Secretariat
Army Headquarters
IDL 24 Blenheim Building
Marlborough Lines
Andover
Hampshire, SP11 8HJ
United Kingdom

Ref: Army/Sec/St/FA/FOI2020/10459

E-mail: ArmySec-Group@mod.gov.uk
Website: www.army.mod.uk

Mr D Arbeely
[request-691835-9b65fa98@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

14 October 2020

Dear Mr Arbeely,

Thank you for your email of 17 September 2020 in which you made the following request:

I was inquiring on any information which the department can release:

1. The status of the Strike Experimentation Group 2. HQ area (town) 3. Units assigned, to be assigned, or been assigned 4. The current commander (by my information Colonel Cowan Taylor) 5. Future of the group, the past of the group 6. Any other useful information/links/locations of further information

I understand some information may be exempt, which puzzles me as according to previous FOI(A) requests at some area, unit 1 future locations and commands are given.*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). I have answered each of your requests separately below:

The status of the Strike Experimentation Group (1)

This information is exempt under Section 21 of the Act because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I refer you to the following [Written Ministerial Statement](#) dated 15 December 2016 and the following [Parliamentary Question](#) answered on 11 December 2017. I can further advise that, as the Strike capability moves from experimentation to implementation, there are likely to be changes. These have yet to be confirmed.

HQ area (town) (2)

It is based in Bulford, Wiltshire.

Units assigned, to be assigned, or been assigned (3)

Information relating to this part of your request is not held by the Ministry of Defence. Under Section 16 of the Act, I can advise that no units have been or will be assigned to the Strike Experimentation Group.

The current commander (4)

The department holds information relating to this part of your request however, the identity of the individual has been withheld under Section 40 of the Act (Personal Information). Section 40 is an absolute exemption therefore there is no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold this information.

Future of the group, the past of the group (5) / Any other useful information/links/locations of further information (6)

This information is also exempt under Section 21 of the Act because it is reasonably accessible to you by other means. Under Section 16 of the Act, the following parliamentary questions from the last three years may be of use to you, in addition to the links already provided to you in this letter:

- <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2017-12-05/117688>
- <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2018-01-17/123284>
- <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2018-09-03/169201>
- <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2018-09-03/169202>
- <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-03-11/27961>

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

Army Secretariat