



Ministry
of Defence

Army Secretariat
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Ref: Army/Sec/St/FA/FOI2020/10536

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Mr D Arbeely
request-692516-61258920@whatdotheyknow.com

16 October 2020

Dear Mr Arbeely

Thank you for your email of 21 September 2020 in which you made the following request:

Hello, I'm making a FOI request to ask about the current disposition of Royal Artillery and Royal Horse Artillery batteries in the regiments of the corps. The army website doesn't list the batteries for the following regiments (these I'm asking the information above for): National Reserve Headquarters Royal Artillery, 1 Regiment RHA, 4 Regiment RA, 5 Regiment RA, 7 Parachute Regiment RHA, 12 Regiment RA, 16 Regiment RA, 19 Regiment RA, and 105 Regiment RA. Any information that can be provided for the batteries, or any previous FOI(A) which contains the information I'm asking for would be helpful.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). This letter is to inform you that the MOD holds some information related to your request, but that we consider that some may fall within the scope of the following qualified exemption: Section 26 (Defence). Section 26 exempts information that, if disclosed, would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the Armed Forces. As such, it is necessary for us to decide whether, in the circumstances of this case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The Freedom of Information Act requires us to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption is engaged and a public interest test must be conducted, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in relation to your request, we estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to make a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. We therefore plan to send a response to you by 16 November 2020. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will let you know.

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

Yours sincerely,

Army Secretariat