



Ministry of Defence

James Morgan-Yates

request-737013-2a66d23a@whatdotheyknow.com

Ref. FOI 2021/02916

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Kingston Road
Sutton Coldfield
B75 7RL

E-mail: diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/DIO

Dear Mr Morgan-Yates,

15 April 2021

Your correspondence dated 15 March 2021 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

"Please can you provide full information on the path being created and/or upgraded around the external perimeter of the Ash Ranges around the east perimeter north of the main gates and that comes close to the Basingstoke Canal running from the Swan pub up to the access road from Ash Vale Station.

Please include:

- 1) Full approved plans or works.*
- 2) Full breakdown of costs incurred and quotes for materials, machinery and work staff.*
- 3) The date the plans were signed off, by whom of authority and who was present*
- 4) Full scale, plan and timetable of works. Including with the plan should be all relevant information including but not limited to a communications plan, and signage.*
- 5) Full information on the tender process to procure 3rd party contractors for the work, if the work is not being done by direct DIO staff.*
- 6) Who has ongoing responsibility for the upkeep and repair of the paths and how they can be contacted if an issue should occur.*
- 7) Insurer, policy number and amount of cover for public liability insurance for the path.*

Please note that redacting and/or with holding names and ranks of senior DIO staff involved in the use of state funds (acquired through taxes) is not acceptable or conducive to an organisation using state funds in an accountable and transparent manner. Any attempt to withhold information will be deemed failure to demonstrate how state money has been used."

This letter is to inform you that the MOD holds some information related to your request, but that we believe some of this information falls within the scope of the following qualified exemption(s): Section 43 (Commercial Interests). As such it is necessary for us to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the 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 applies to the information and the public interest test has to 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 take a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. We therefore plan to let you have a response by 14 May 2021. 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.

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). 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/>.

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Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat