



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

DIO Sec-Sec PBF011

Mr Fred Dawson

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Ref. 28-05-2012-1044452-002

26 June 2012

Dear Mr Dawson

Request for Information: Chemical Weapon Contamination

Thank you for your request of 27 May 2012, this was passed to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) – the Ministry of Defence (MOD) organisation with responsibility for the defence estate – and has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations (2004).

You requested (verbatim) the following information:-

- a: Land quality assessments
- b: CW Clearance certificates
- c: Results of environmental surveys
- d: whether or not the site is owned by the MOD
- e: any other information about chemical weapon contamination at these sites;

at the following sites :-

Forward Filling Depot 1 (FFD) Little Heath Suffolk Under the control of 94 Maintenance Unit

FFD 2 Melchbourne/Riseley Bedfordshire American FFD - Station 572

FFD 3 Norton Disney Lincolnshire Under the control of 93 Maintenance Unit

FFD 4 Lords Bridge Cambridgeshire Under the control of 95 Maintenance Unit

FFD 5 Escrick Yorkshire Under the control of 80 Sub Maintenance Unit

RAF Macmerry located about 9 miles east of Edinburgh. In the past, the airfield may have been referred to as Tranent, or Penston
<http://www.secretscotland.org.uk/index.php/Secrets/RAFMacmerry>

While I can confirm that the MOD holds information within the scope of your enquiry, it is likely that some or all of it falls within the scope of a qualified exemption of the FOI Act. The relevant exemption is Section 22 (Information Intended for Future Publication) which provides that information is exempt from disclosure if the public authority holding it or another person intends to publish it at some future date, whether determined or not, and in all the circumstances it is reasonable to withhold the information prior to publication.

The exemption is subject to the balance of the public interest. By virtue of section 10(3) of the Act, where public authorities have to consider the balance of the public interest, they do not have to comply with the request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances. The MOD has not yet reached a decision and I will not be able to fully respond to your request within 20 working days because of the need to carefully consider the issues involved. Our decision will be made as soon as possible and I will inform you immediately thereafter.

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-FOxxxx@xxx.xx). 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, www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

DIO Sec-Sec PBFO11