



Ministry of Defence

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Mr Dawson

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Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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Ref: 01-07-2013-111729-009

25 July 2013

Dear Mr Dawson,

Request for Information: MOD's liability due to contamination of MOD's alienated sites.

Thank you for your request of 29 June 2013. 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.

You asked for:

A: The MOD's estimate for the liability due to contamination of MODs alienated sites.

B: The liability due to radium contamination of MODs alienated sites

Could you also provide information about level of uncertainty for the figures provided at A and B

I can confirm that the MOD holds some information within the scope of your enquiry, this is attached at Annex A.

Contaminated land within the UK is primarily dealt with under the planning regime which requires developers to assume responsibility for the costs of any remediation necessary to ensure safe development. As such where land is known or suspected to be contaminated, developers are obliged to demonstrate the presence or otherwise of contamination, its nature, extent and the associated risks together with details of how the risks can be mitigated.


Historic contamination on the other hand is addressed through the contaminated land regime which was established in 2000 and extended to cover radioactively contaminated land in 2007. Under this regime local authorities are required to inspect the land within their areas and identify and determine land which is 'contaminated land' by virtue of the fact it is not suitable for its current use. The exception being radioactively contaminated land in Scotland which falls entirely to SEPA.

The MOD is committed to assisting these bodies with their inspections but we would not look to compile estimates for land no longer in ownership which is currently deemed to be suitable for its current use or else subject to development.

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, www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. W. [unclear]', written over the typed name 'J. W. [unclear]'.

DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION**ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY PROVISIONS 2013/2014 AS AT 1 APRIL 2013 - ALIENATED SITES**

<u>Site</u>	<u>Category Provision</u>	<u>Undiscounted Provision Value as at 31.3.2013</u>	<u>Discounted Provision Value as at 31.3.2013</u>
Trawnsfyndd Range - Former Demolition Grounds	Environmental Liability	(939,769.04)	(987,151.66)
	TOTAL	<u>(939,769.04)</u>	<u>(987,151.66)</u>