



Ministry
of Defence

DE&S SEC Policy Secretariat

Defence Equipment and Support
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol
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Email: DESSEC-PolSecSxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xx

Dave Whyte

Our Reference:
FOI2015/00553

Via: request-xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

Date: 2 March 2015

Dear Mr Whyte

Further to my letter of 12 February 2015, I am writing in response to your request for the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Can you please advise on the level (weight) of Depleted Uranium (DU) placed inside the following nuclear weapons:

Grapple 'Y'
Grapple 'Z' Operation Pennant
Grapple 'Z' Operation Flagpole
Grapple 'Z' Operation Halliard
Grapple 'Z' Operation Burgee

Under Section 24(2) (National Security) and Section 26(3) (Defence) the MOD neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any information in scope of your request. Sections 24 and 26 are engaged because the information you have requested relates to nuclear weapon design. As these are qualified exemptions, a public interest test has been conducted to consider whether the balance of public interest lies in confirming or denying whether information you request is held.

We recognise the presumption of release under the FOI Act and that information about the British Nuclear Tests is a matter of public interest. However, details of the material composition of nuclear weapons could help an adversary or third party nation to build a body of knowledge that could assist them in countering a future deterrent or building their own device. It is considered therefore that the balance of public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying whether the MOD held any information in scope of your request. This should not be taken as an indication that such information is or is not held.

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 Information Rights Compliance team, 1st 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.org.uk

Defence Equipment & Support

Yours sincerely,

Defence Equipment and Support Policy Secretariat