



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Ships and Submarines Team



#2043 Maple 0a
MOD Abbey Wood
Bristol BS34 8JH

DESSEC-PolSecShipsandSubs@mod.uk

Mr F Dawson

Our Reference: 113216-002

Request-34136-
972ad3e9@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 29 June 2010

Dear Mr Dawson

Request for Information – Release of Information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000

I am writing to provide you with an update on your request for the annual reports from the Defence Nuclear and Environment Safety Board to the Defence Environment Safety Board for the years 2006-7, 2007-8 and 2008-9.

I should first like to apologise for not writing to you with an update by 25 June as we said we would in our last letter, as you pointed out in your email of 27 June. This was due to an administrative error on our part.

As you will be aware from our previous letter, qualified exemptions S24 (National Security), S26 (Defence), S27 (International Relations) and S35 (Formulation of Government Policy) of the FOI Act are believed to apply to the information that you have requested. These qualified exemptions are subject to the application of a balance of public interest test.

Under Section 10(3) of the Act, where public authorities have to apply this test in relation to a request, they do not have to comply with the request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances. They are therefore able to extend the time to provide a final response beyond the normal 20 working day limit. Work to consider the public interest in this case remains ongoing, and we estimate that it will take approximately 20 more working days to respond to your request. I am hoping to send you a final response by 26 July 2010; if this is not possible I will provide you with a further update.

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, 6th 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,

The Ships and Submarines Team