



DE&S Policy Secretariat - Submarines

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Mr Fred Dawson

Our Reference:
24-02-2012-105201-003

Via: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Date:
23 April 2012

Dear Mr Dawson,

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

Further to my letter dated 23 March I am now in a position to provide you with a substantive response to your FOI request in which you ask the following:

It is over ten years since the last independent periodic review of the MOD's radioactive waste management practices by RWMAC.

Could you provide me with the following information:-

a: could you please tell me why there has not been a review of MOD's radioactive waste management practices by CoWRM RWMAC's successor or any other body since 2000; and

b: if it is MOD's intention to commission a review of the MOD's radioactive waste management practices.

c: if this is the case when is it intended such a review will take place.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act gives an applicant the right to access recorded information held by public authorities at the time the request is made and does not require public authorities to answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information held. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds no recorded information that would provide an answer to the questions you have asked in your request.

You may find it helpful to know that The Information Commissioner's Office publishes guidance on how to make requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act in the ICO Charter for Responsible Freedom of Information Requests, available on the ICO website at the following address:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/practical_application/its_public_information_foi%20charter_final.pdf

Outside the scope of the FOI Act however, you may wish to be aware that the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) is not the successor to the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee (RWMAC). In addition, CoRWM is not required to review MOD radioactive waste management practices. Finally, nuclear licensed and authorised sites are required to demonstrate that they satisfy the relevant licence/authorisation conditions (32: Accumulation of Radioactive Waste and 33: Disposal of Radioactive Waste) to the relevant nuclear regulator.

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, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

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