



# Ministry of Defence

James Morgan-Yates

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Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
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Ref. FOI 2020/08483

20 August 2020

Dear Mr Morgan-Yates,

Your correspondence dated 22 July 2020 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

*"Please can you provide me with a full list of licenses, permissions and communications (be they written, email or by telephone or radio) for drone flights conducted over Ash Ranges on 23/6/2020 and electronic copies of tehse.*

*For the avoidance of doubt this is copies and details of any and all permissons and operating licenses granted to the DIO or any party acting on their behalf by any relevant state or public body or any other party with reasonable interest in drone flights on the above date.*

*For each please include date requested, date approved, who by (body or party issuing permission), organisation that raised the request, along with a full copy of the request. I understand that in line with data protection certain PII (personally identifiable information) may need to be redacted) from copies of any information provided."*

This letter is to inform you that the MOD holds information related to your request, but that we believe the information falls within the scope of the following qualified exemption: Section 26 (Defence). As such it is necessary for us to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires us to respond to requests promptly, and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption may apply to the information requested, and a public interest test has to be conducted, the FOIA allows the time for the response to be longer than 20 working days. A full response must be provided within such time as is reasonable in all circumstances of the case and, in relation to your request, we estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to take a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. We therefore plan to let you have a response by 18 September 2020. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will let you know.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

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Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat