



Ministry of Defence

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Ref: Pers Trg-Sec/FOI: 10-06-2013-121613-009

Mr S Mackerman

[request-16xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx]

18 June 2013

Dear Mr Mackerman

Thank you for your request of 10 June 2013 which you submitted via "What Do They Know.com" where you requested the following information:

"Could you please confirm that Organophosphates were used as part of the immunisation programme against biological warfare agents for UK forces during the Gulf conflict 1990/1991.

We know that the areas providing accommodation to the service personnel were extensively treated with organophosphates.

Therefore could you please list all the organophosphates used, whether or not they were part of the immunisation programme.

Could you also provide their respective license details."

We are treating this as a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.. However, this information is already in the public domain, and is available via the National Archives website, see the links provided below. Therefore the information is reasonably available to you by other means and is withheld under Section 21 of the FOIA.

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20050328231439/http://mod.uk/issues/gulfwar/info/pesticides.htm>

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20050328231439/http://mod.uk/issues/gulfwar/info/pesticides/oppit.htm>

Under Section 16 of the Act you may find it helpful to consider the following background information in order to put the information in context:

The use of Organophosphate (OP) pesticides during the 1990/1991 Gulf conflict is separate from the Ministry of Defence's (MOD's) immunisation programme against biological warfare agents.

The Organophosphate Pesticide Investigation Team Substantive Report (published December 1996) will be of particular interest and a list of the pesticides identified during the investigation is at the Annex of the report. The report also sets out the controls and regulations on the use of Op pesticides at the time of the 1990/1991 Gulf conflict.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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 Deputy Chief Information Officer, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOxxxx@xxx.xx). 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>.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Personnel Secretariat