



Ministry of Defence

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Duncan Buckley

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Ref. FOI 2020/07503

27 July 2020

Dear Mr Buckley,

Thank you for your email of 19 June 2020 requesting the following information:

"I would like to submit an FOI request regarding the speed restrictions for the Buntingsdale Park Road; whether it has been officially logged, registered and approved by the Council to be anything other than the nationally recognised Highway Code speed limit of 30 mph. Please also advise as part of the response to the below questions (i.e. whose responsibility is it to police and regulate these roadways and does that fall under the default Highway Code of 30pmh for built up areas?).

Therefore, my FOI is broken down into a multipart criterion questions as follows:

1 - Has there been an official request to lower the speed limit of this roadway with the authorities to any other speed lower than 30 mph? Assuming the road defaults to national policing and highway standards in a residential area, what is the currently registered, approved, and expected speed limit of the estate road?

2 - In deciding on the local speed limit restrictions, what assessments were carried out and when which could include (but not limited to):

a) clear evidence of the effect of reducing traffic speeds on the reduction of collisions and casualties

b) statistics of casualties and accidents on this specified roadway in Buntingsdale to warrant a change in speed and the reasoning given to warrant that change

c) previous average speed analysis and frequency of road usage for residential cars travelling in and out of the estate over the time period that was measured".

This FOI request was logged as (FOI 2020/07030). The Ministry of Defence (MOD) required further information in order to determine whether it holds any information within the scope of your request. You were informed of this via email dated 29 June 2020. On 1 July 2020, you clarified your request;

“The roadway in question is the Buntingsdale Park residential area which is opposite the ATM Royal Irish Regiment at Tern Hill on the A41 (Market Drayton), if that helps to locate it. When I enquired with the Shropshire Council, they advised the MOD still had ownership of the roadway despite it being publicly accessed now and should therefore be under the regulation of national highways and standard speed limitations in residential zones / built up areas”.

From your clarification, a new FOI request was logged (FOI 2020/07503).

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to know that Hedley Way is a MOD owned road. This road leads off the A41 immediately opposite the Royal Irish Regiment. From your clarification of 1 July 2020, it has been interpreted that this is the road you were referring to. There are roads off Hedley Way within the Buntingsdale Park residential area. Some of which are MOD owned and some are not. The information below applies to the MOD owned roads in this area.

The local Council have not officially logged, registered or approved the speed limits on the roadway(s) in question as they are not required to do so. The Council have also informed MOD that they have no jurisdiction over these roads and has had no input regarding the introduction of any speed limits or traffic calming measures.

The speed limit along the residential area of Hedley Way and associated roadways is 15mph. The decision to implement speed restrictions along Hedley Way and associated roadways was taken many years ago. No information is held within MOD on what assessments were completed to reach this decision or when.

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). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing 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/>.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat