



Ministry of Defence

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www.gov.uk/DIO

T R Matthews

request-460250-c7beb7e1@whatdotheyknow.com 21 March 2018

Ref. FOI 2018/04044

Dear Mr Matthews,

Thank you for your email of 27 February 2018 requesting the following information:

"Thank you for your response. Please accept my apologies for my request being too broad. I note that it would take, on your estimate, 62 days to recover the maps I requested.

Is it not that case that the MoD employs Cartographers within the Royal Engineers to produce these maps. Perhaps it may be prudent to check with them before dismissing my request as too onerous?

I would expect an arm of Her Majesty's Armed Forces to have a centrally held electronically accessible database of maps which can be provided to me.

Thank you for directing me to the DIO Training Estate website. Not all maps are on there.

If this task still remains too onerous, having properly considered the points raised above, please inform me so that I can narrow my request. For clarity I only require training area maps within mainland UK."

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

I am writing to confirm that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds the information on the subject you have requested. However as advised in our response to you of 23 February 2018, we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because to locate, retrieve and extract the information in scope of your request would involve at least 62 days of effort.

Section 12 of the Act (exceed the cost limit) makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it. It is important to note that if any part of a request would exceed the cost limit, the Information Commissioner's Office guidance states that public authorities should avoid providing the information found as a result of its searching and claiming Section 12 for the remainder of the information.

In the response to you of 23 February 2018 I advised that you may wish to refine or reduce your request to a small number of specific sites or certain units or by regional training areas managed by the MOD's Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). In this response under Section 16 (advice & assistance) you were directed to the DIO Training Estate website, it was not advised that all maps could be found on the website.

You were also advised that details of the regional training areas managed by DIO can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defence-infrastructure-organisation-and-the-defence-training-estate> which provide the appropriate grid references. This can then be used to purchase the relevant maps from www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk.

If you wish to refine or reduce this request to a small number of specific sites or certain units or regional training areas, please do so by return to DIOSec-Parli@mod.gov.uk.

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.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/>.

Yours Sincerely

DIO Secretariat