



Ministry
of Defence

DE&S Policy Secretariat

Defence Equipment and Support
MOD Abbey Wood
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Email: DESSEC-PolSecSxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xx



Mr David Whyte

Our Reference:
30-09-2013-155226-003

Via: request-179050-448f8f6c@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 25 October 2013

Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Dear Mr Whyte,

Further to my email of 2 October 2013, I am writing to provide you with an update on your Freedom of Information request in which you ask for the following information:

'I refer to your reply to my FOI 11-03-2013-114455-007 dated 3 May 2013.

In the 'Bunker' located at ground Zero, or 'Steel Cubes' as they appear to be referred to, could you please inform me as to the purpose of the instruments located within this structure.

I counted at least five or six instruments prior to detonation of the devices detonated during 'Grapple 'Z' but more may have been added after cessation of my duties within this structure.

1. Could you please advise me on the total number of instruments located within the afore mentioned structure on detonation for both Pennant and Burgee atomic detonations?

2. Could you please advise me as to the information being monitored, and recorded, by each of these instruments during both Pennant and Burgee detonations?

As previously stated, I am treating your correspondence as a request under the FOI Act 2000.

This letter is to inform you that the MOD holds information related to your request, but that we consider that the information falls within the scope of the following qualified exemption: Section 24 (National Security). 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 FOI Act 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 applies to the information and the public interest test has to be conducted, the Act 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 reach a final decision on where the balance of public interest lies. We therefore plan to let you have a response by 22 November 2013. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion we will let you know.

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 xxxxxxxxxx@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>.

Yours sincerely,

DE&S Policy Secretariat