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Ref. FOI2016/06509

E-mail: ISS-SecretariatGpMbx@mod.uk

Mr Mantle

request-341451-7f78de23@whatdotheyknow.com

14 July 2016

Dear Mr Mantle

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 23 June 2016 in which you requested the following information:

"How many Number Stations are you aware of in the UK"

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

The MOD neither confirms nor denies it holds any information in scope of your request under section 23 (Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters) and section 24 (National Security).

Under section 23(5) (information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters) the MOD neither confirms nor denies whether it holds any information in scope of your request. This is an absolute exemption and not subject to a public interest test.

To the extent that section 24(2) of the Act applies, we have determined that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether the MOD holds the information. To give a statement of the

reasons for this would involve the disclosure of information which would itself be exempt information.

Therefore, under section 17(4) of the Act, the MOD is not obliged to give such a statement. However, this should not be taken as necessarily indicating that any information that would meet your request exists or does not exist.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you 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 Information Rights Compliance team, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). 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,

Information Systems and Services Secretariat