



Ministry of Defence

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Ref: FOI2019/13522

Mr. S. Martin,
Request-627559-20e97c00@whatdotheyknow.com

15 January, 2020

Dear Mr Martin,

Thank you for your email, dated 13th December 2019 and received by the Air Historical Branch (RAF) requesting the following:

“Could you please provide me with site plans and maps regarding RAF Fauld in Staffordshire.”

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, and we can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held.

However, as this information could be used to attempt to gain access to MoD property, and that property contains large amounts of unexploded ordnance, the information is exempt under Sections 26, 31, and 38.

Under Section 26(1) (Defence) the MoD can withhold information that is likely to prejudice the security of the British Armed Forces, in this case entering and potentially removing munitions from MoD Fauld. Section 26 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT). A PIT has been conducted and the balance of public interest lay in not releasing any information in scope of your request.

Under Section 31(1)(a) (Law Enforcement) the MoD can withhold information that is likely to prejudice the prevention of crime, in this case trespass and the potential acquisition of explosive materials. Section 31 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT). A PIT has been conducted and the balance of public interest lay in not releasing any information in scope of your request.

Under Section 38(1)(b) (Health and Safety) the MoD can withhold information that is likely to endanger the safety of the individual, in this entering underground works which still hold

large quantities of unexploded ordnance. Section 38 is a qualified exemption and is subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT). A PIT has been conducted and the balance of public interest lay in not releasing any information in scope of your request.

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 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,

Air Historical Branch (RAF)