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**Matthew J. Ramsden**

By email only: [request-702578-9d199135@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-702578-9d199135@whatdotheyknow.com)

FOI Reference: FOI2020/15650  
25/11/2020

Dear Matthew J. Ramsden

**Ref: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

I must advise you that I must extend the time limit for responding to your request.

It is occasionally necessary to extend the 20 working day time limit for issuing a response. Information you have requested is exempt under section 26(1) of the Freedom of information Act. Section 26 protects information if its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the defence of the British Islands or of any colony, or the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. Section 26 is subject to a public interest test and the Cabinet Office has not yet reached a decision on whether the balance of the public interest favours disclosure of this information.

By virtue of section 10(3), when public authorities have to consider the balance of the public interest in relation to a request, they do not have to comply with the request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances. Owing to the need to consider, in all the circumstances of the case, where the balance of the public interest lies in relation to your request, we will not be able to respond to your request in full within 20 working days. I hope to let you have a response by 24/12/2019. If I can reply before that date, I shall do so. If I need more time to consider the balance of the public interest, I shall write again to let you know.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI team. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

**FOI Team**  
**Cabinet Office**