



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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4 April 2016

Thank you for your email of 7 March 2016 requesting the following information:

“Please can you tell me the locations of any households which have been issued with iodine tablets to protect people in the event of a radiation emergency over the last a) five years b) ten years – including how many households and for how long the tablets were issued?”

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

The Ministry of Defence does not have responsibility for the issue of stable iodine tablets and does not hold the information in the scope of your request. Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPPIR) 2001 requires local authorities to prepare emergency plans around nuclear sites in areas designated by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). The ONR web page: <http://www.onr.org.uk/depz.htm> provides information on the detailed emergency planning zones for UK nuclear sites. Each local authority that includes a nuclear site (or sites) is required to prepare an off-site nuclear emergency plan which will, for sites with operational reactors, include arrangements for the distribution of stable iodine tablets. This may include, in some instances, the pre-distribution of stable iodine to some households. Relevant local authorities may be able to provide information in relation to pre-distributed iodine tablets.

Notwithstanding the pre-planning arrangements, I can confirm that there has never been a radiation emergency in the UK that has required iodine tablets to be issued to protect the public.

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, 1st 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Security & Resilience