



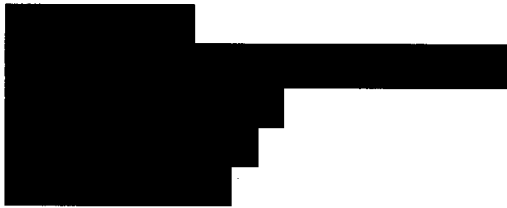
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Our Reference:
20160222-FOI2016/02247



22 March 2016

Your correspondence dated 19 February 2016 has been considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. You requested the following information:

I would like to get the exercise report on the international exercise held at RAF Honington in May 2015 it was to test the response to an emergency involving United States of America nuclear weapons within the UK . Please see the below extract in a Suffolk County Council online public document which refers to the exercise report and how it would be ready by the end of 2015 and would also be made public.

Please could I have a copy of the report and the key learning points for Suffolk.

Joint UK/US Military Exercise

The process of identifying lessons from a major international exercise held at RAF Honington in May 2015 to test the response to an emergency involving United States of America nuclear weapons within the UK has recently finished. Local planning for this large and complex exercise was completed by the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit and reinforced links with both United States Air Force bases in Suffolk that have been progressively built up over many years.

The exercise confirmed the ability of Suffolk emergency services, local authorities and health authorities to work effectively with UK and US military forces to manage such an incident.

An exercise report is being produced by the Ministry of Defence and will be made public before the end of the year; this will include the Suffolk key learning points which are being taken forward by the Suffolk Resilience Forum.

A letter was sent to you on 17 March 2016 informing you that the MOD holds information related to your request, and that we believe the information falls within the scope of the following exemption: exemption 22 (Information Intended for Future Publication). As such it was 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 MOD is currently drafting the Lessons Identified Report from the United Kingdom (UK) and United States (US) nuclear weapons emergency response exercise DIAMOND DRAGON which took place in Suffolk in June/July 2015. The report is currently incomplete and is being reviewed and revised by relevant stakeholders to ensure its accuracy.

The MOD has decided that the public interest is in favour of withholding the incomplete report which may contain inaccurate information until such time that UK and US stakeholders agree its accuracy and content prior to its publication. MOD aims to publish the final Lessons Identified report on GOV.UK by the end of April 2016.

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 normally 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