



Ministry
of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Kingston Road
Sutton Coldfield
B75 7RL

E-mail: diosec-parli@mod.uk
www.gov.uk/DIO

Ref. FOI2015/08254

19 October 2015

Dear

Thank you for your email of 23 September 2015 requesting the following information:

"In 1944, there was a massive explosion at an ammunition store in Fauld, Staffordshire. It remains the largest non-nuclear explosion in history.

The land is still owned by the MOD, and I would like to know what precautions have been made to prevent the public from accessing the land.

I would also like to know what investigation the MOD carried out to ensure that there were no unexploded bombs.

I would also like to know if there are, to the MOD's knowledge, any unexploded bombs on the site."

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 I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held and is noted below.

Q1. The land is still owned by the MOD, and I would like to know what precautions have been made to prevent the public from accessing the land.

A1. The perimeter to the Fauld crater is fenced and there are several warning signs. The crater rim and fence line are inspected annually by 5131 (Bomb Disposal) Squadron on behalf of RAF Cosford. A report of the annual visit is sent to the Explosives Safety Representative and Health and Safety Representative at RAF Cosford to address any follow-up actions.

Q2. I would also like to know what investigation the MOD carried out to ensure that there were no unexploded bombs.

A2. As well as the annual inspections referred to above, the crater was the subject of a shallow instrument search between 1966 and 1969 and a subsequent visual search between 1974 and 1976.

Q3. I would also like to know if there are, to the MOD's knowledge, any unexploded bombs on the site.

A3. The crater has not been fully cleared of ordnance, as it would be too dangerous to do so. As there is no public access and a security fence it is not high risk.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat

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 DIO Secretariat 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>.