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Our ref: FOI 2014/04572  
Your ref:

03 October 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 18 August 2014 requesting the following information:

*A copy of the report R0002C78C – Strategic Energy Supply Study – Concept of Analysis (2012).*

We are 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 the information in scope of your request is held.

However, some of the information falls within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at Section 40 (Personal Data) and also within the scope of the qualified exemptions provided for at Section 27 (International Relations) of the FOI Act. As a result this information has been redacted.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the material in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Section 27 is a qualified exemption and is subject to public interest testing, which means that the requested information can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Specifically, Section 27(1) (a) has been applied because some of the information contained within the requested report has the potential to adversely affect relations with our allies. The balance of the public interest test concluded that while release would increase public understanding of the potential strategic energy supply issues for the future of the United Kingdom, the balance of public interest lay in withholding some of the information you request. Hopefully you will find the redacted report is still of use to your work.

The information you have requested has been despatched by post, due to the size of the soft copy.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Dstl Secretariat