



Ministry  
of Defence

Navy Command FOI Section  
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FOI 2014-05531

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[REDACTED]

Via email: [REDACTED]

23 October 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information – Final Response

Further to my letter of 7 October 2014, acknowledging your freedom of information request, I am now able to make a substantive response. You asked for the following information:

"I am writing to you with a request under the Freedom of Information [FOI] Act to ask for a copy of the evacuation procedures that would be used if a major incident were to happen at Faslane, as well as evacuation and safety procedures that would be followed were there to be a major incident whilst transporting nuclear material to Faslane through civilian areas.

I look forward to a written response outlining the evacuation plans and would request that you reply to me with paper copies at the following address, and also with an electronic copy to this email address."

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held and is forwarded here. I should point out that it has been necessary to remove a small amount of text in the attachment as the release of certain details could potentially harm the defence of the UK; these omissions do not affect the substance of the document.

Some of the information in scope of your request is exempt under the qualified exemption s26(1)(b) (Defence), as its release would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the UK armed forces. Whilst its release would be furthering public understanding this must be weighed against the threat to defence that such a release would pose. It has been concluded that it is not in the public interest to reveal certain details that could potentially compromise the effectiveness of measures to be put in place simply to provide greater public understanding about the way in which the MOD secures the safety of its personnel at HMNB Clyde.

In terms of information you requested on the procedures to be adopted were there to be a major incident whilst transporting nuclear materials, this is available in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) 'Local Authority and Emergency Services Information' document (Edition 10) which can be found at the following link:

- [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/82776/LAESI\\_9.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/82776/LAESI_9.pdf)

Similarly the full information on MOD planning and responding to an emergency involving Defence nuclear assets is available in the MOD Joint Service Publication (JSP) 471 – 'Defence Nuclear Emergency Response' on the Government Website via the following link:

- [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/260613/20131114-JSP\\_471\\_V1\\_1-U.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/260613/20131114-JSP_471_V1_1-U.pdf)

Given the information is already available to the public this part of your request has been assessed as falling under the absolute exemption at section 21 of the Act – information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Consequently, I am not obliged to provide you with a copy of that information but have provided you with the relevant hyperlinks that will enable you to access and print the information you require.

JSP 471 details the safety and security policy and regulations regarding the MOD's nuclear propulsion and weapons programmes. The Chapter 1 Overview outlines the MOD response in the event of an emergency: "This response will be in accordance with site or operational specific emergency response plans integrated with wider crisis management arrangements and/or specific local authority off-site plans which will include reference to local/regional response plans and/or responder organisations."

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act, it is the duty of the public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it is reasonable. I have therefore also included, below, a link to the local authority responsible for the off-site emergency plan for Faslane; the area you have specified, Argyll and Bute, should be contacted for a copy of its emergency plan:

- <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/enquiriesform>

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). 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



Navy Command Secretariat – FOI Section