



Ministry  
of Defence

Secretariat

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Ref: FOI2016/12642

[REDACTED]

18 January 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 14 December requesting the following information:

*“ . . . the documents and financial assessments that were used to make the case for the inclusion of Fulwood Barracks in Preston in the list for closure as part of the “Better Defence Estate” strategy, announced in November 2016”*

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 (MOD), and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held but, as stated in our response of 5 December 2016 to your previous FOI request (FOI 01337), this information falls under Section 21 of the Act being reasonably accessible to you from other sources; in this case the internet.

A link to the estate optimisation strategy A Better Defence Estate documents can be found below:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/565858/20161107\\_MOD\\_Better\\_Defence\\_Estate\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/565858/20161107_MOD_Better_Defence_Estate_FINAL.pdf)

Information relating to Fulwood Barracks can be found on page 21 of the document.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) I can repeat that, further to your earlier request for information (FOI 01337), the assessment studies for the site will be conducted over the next 12 to 18 months. This will then lead to business cases for activities associated with individual sites. Although the strategy has been developed with military advice from the Front Line Commands and input from key stakeholders and endorsement from the Defence Board there are no assessments relating to individual sites as yet.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, Ground 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 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,

Inset role title or suitable signature block including name (only if you feel comfortable in doing so)