



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Our Ref: FOI2015/00803

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

12 February 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 20 January 2015 requesting the following information:

- 1. Please provide any information asset registers (IARs) held by the MOD related to the RAF's ISTAR fleet and the ISTAR Force Headquarters at RAF Waddington*
- 2. Please any code sheets or data dictionaries that are used in conjunction with the files captured in the scope of point 1 above.*

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 information in scope of your request is held.

Attached at Annex A are the file plan headings of the RAF's ISTAR fleet and ISTAR Force Headquarters file plan contained on the MOSS IT Filing system, which we consider forms the information asset register in the format you have requested. Abbreviations are as given in the file plan and constitute the information held. To assist you and for clarity, I have added the full words associated with those abbreviations in square brackets alongside them.

I am withholding two of the file plan headings under Section 26 of the FOI Act. Section 26 is information which if disclosed, would prejudice defence or the capability, effectiveness or security of relevant forces. Section 26(1)(b) has been applied to some of the information because it contains details which would prejudice the capability and effectiveness of our armed forces. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing any details on the assistance we provide to other states in that it would prejudice the security of UK personnel serving abroad and which would provide tactical advantage to our enemies and for these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

Reasons for and against disclosure are as follows:

Public Interest (PI) factors in favour of disclosure

- The public interest in understanding how the Armed Forces work and that information relating to defence matters is recorded for future reference and for accountability purposes.

Public Interest (PI) factors against disclosure

- Knowledge of sensitive information could be used by hostile elements to threaten the integrity and security of current and future UK military operations.
- Giving precise details of information not already in the public domain and which is of strategic importance could have serious strategic implications for the UK.

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 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



Secretariat 3b
Air Command

Annex A

Current File Structure

WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Manage ISTAR FHQ (*Force Headquarters*) [administrative area]
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > COS [*Chief of Staff*]
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > DPD [*Direct, Process, Disseminate*]
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > ISTAR Force Commander
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Maritime
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Pan Platform [current operations and correspondence for all platforms]
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Reaper
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Rivet Joint
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Sentinel
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Sentry
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Shadow
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Safety
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Training
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > AIRSEEKER [combined term for the aircraft (Rivet Joint) and DPD element]
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Operations
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Exercises
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > TIW [*Tactical Imagery-Intelligence Wing*]
WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > Intelligence

WAD Portal > 1 Gp ISTAR FHQ > [REDACTED]

Legacy File Structure

/HQAIR/2GP/ASTOR NEW
/HQAIR/2GP/E-3D
/HQAIR/2GP/ISTAR Cap Dev [*Capability Development*]
/HQAIR/2GP/ISTAR Ops [*Operations*]

/HQAIR/2GP/[REDACTED]

/HQAIR/2GP/Nimrod R1
/HQAIR/2GP/RPA [*Remotely Piloted Aircraft*]
/HQAIR/2GP/Shadow R1
/HQAIR/2GP/ASTOR
/HQAIR/2GP/Reaper