



Our ref: FOI 2015/11589

Your ref:

Date: 18 January 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 December 2015 requesting the following information:

"On 21 January 2008, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) received a Decision Notice (ICO Ref: FS50099223) from the Information Commissioner requiring the MOD to provide the complainant with the information he requested, namely footage of the Biological Warfare experiments conducted by the Microbiological Research Department, Porton Down, at the Isle of Lewis during 1952. These experiments were conducted under the codename Operation CAULDRON.

The MOD duly supplied the footage of Operation CAULDRON to the complainant. The MOD also wrote to the Office of the Information Commissioner on 20 February 2008 (MOD Reference D/DG Info/3/18/1 20-07-2005-164846-008), informing him: "There is a potential for misinterpretation of the footage to imply the events in the film represent continuing practice, potentially endangering current staff as well as those involved at the time. We will be keeping a watch following the release of the film footage...to see if there are any related incidents involving current or past staff at Porton Down.

I wish to make a Freedom of Information request for hard copies of all information, held by the MOD, concerning the aforementioned watch for related incidents involving current or past staff at Porton Down following the release of the Operation CAULDRON 1952 film footage. This information should include, but not be limited to: the number of recorded related incidents, type of related incidents, method of determination whether an incident was directly related to the release of the film footage, length of watch, etc"

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 I can confirm that no information in scope of your request is held.

We are not aware that any current or former members of staff have contacted the authorities/Dstl or MOD Security expressing concerns for their safety or wellbeing following the release of the Operation CAULDRON 1952 film footage.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act (Advice and Assistance), you may find it helpful to know that as

standard practice the MOD and Dstl undertake media monitoring. This activity is designed to identify any media articles relating to both organisations/establishments and predecessor organisations/establishments. If considered necessary, this identification provides the opportunity to address inaccuracies and any potential staff/environment concerns. As a result of MOD's routine media monitoring, we are aware of two articles that were published since the Operation CAULDRON film was released.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-11549809>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2207608/Shrieking-sheer-terror-monkeys-showered-bubonic-plague-Horrific-film-1952-shows-British-germ-warfare-tests.html>

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, 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

Dstl Secretariat