



Ministry
of Defence

Secretariat
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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17 January 2017

Ref. FOI2017/12456

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 16 December 2016 requesting the following information:

"As you are aware you are planning to sell off Middlwick Ranges in Colchester.

I would like to request information linked to the burying of cattle that may have had foot & mouth disease and been buried on the ranges."

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 no information in scope of your request is held.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the MOD does not hold any records of the burying of cattle, which have died as a result of foot and mouth disease at Middlewick Ranges, as we know categorically that this did not take place.

Please contact the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) rural helpline on 03000 200 301 if you would like more information on this subject. It is DEFRA's responsibility to dispose of deceased rural animals, on a large scale.

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, 2nd Floor, Zone N, 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely
DIO Secretariat