



# Ministry of Defence

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

Ref. 2016/4027

[REDACTED]

4 May 2016

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your e-mail of 7 April 2016 clarifying your request asking for information about the radio station at Grinshill.

You requested the following information:

*"I wish to know about its current use please and all relevant information pertaining to this? Could you also confirm its exact location?"*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am writing to tell you that the MOD holds information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without far exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because as currently phrased, your request is extremely broad and to locate and extract information within the scope of your request would involve manually searching large amounts of documentation across the the MOD to see if it has any relevance or even mentions Grinshill. This could take many hundreds of hours work.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The MOD may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. It may be possible to provide information if you could limit it to very specific questions or items. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so.

In the meantime, under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) of the Act you might wish to note that the RAF facility at the Grinshill site is limited to a small below ground chamber with

radio equipment, which provides the forward relay frequencies for helicopters operating in the Low-Flying Area. The chamber is accessed via a small access hatch and there is a pole with aerials and an obstruction light on top. The light is required because of the height of the aerials above the surrounding area. Its function is to act as a radio relay for RAF Shawbury as the terrain in the area is hilly and radio signals to low flying helicopters can be blocked. It is located on Grinshill Hill in Shropshire at Ordnance Survey map reference SJ519237. A search of the internet found the following links which have photographs of the aerial mast:

<http://www.themountainguide.co.uk/england/grinshill-hill.htm>

<http://www.heavyhorses.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/humps/Oct09.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 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,

  
Air DRes Sec 3a1