



Ministry
of Defence

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DE&S Policy Secretariat



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Our Reference:
FOI2016/06492

Date: 15 September 2016

[REDACTED]
Request for Information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act

Further to my letter dated 19 August 2016, I am writing to provide you with a response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in which you requested the following information:

In response to earlier freedom of information (Fol) requests the Ministry of Defence has provided information on operational and engineering incidents involving road convoys carrying nuclear weapons or other defence nuclear materials. As far as I am aware, no information on such incidents has been released since 2012.

Please could the Ministry of Defence provide details of all operational and engineering incidents involving nuclear convoys from 1 January 2013 to 22 June 2016. Please provide the information in the same format as the response to the earlier Fol request reference 19-12-2013-090110-001.

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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.

The information that you have requested is enclosed and has been extracted from our records. As you requested, the information has been presented in a table format which is the same as that used in our response to FOI 19-12-2013-090110-001.

Please find attached the following documents:

- Engineering incidents during Defence Nuclear Material convoys 1 January 2013 to July 2016
- Operational incidents during Defence Nuclear Material convoys 1 January 2013 to July 2016

I can confirm that the information provided has been compiled on the same basis as that released under FOI 19-12-2013-090110-001 in that Defence Nuclear Material includes both Special Nuclear Material and warheads.

I am sorry that this response has not complied with the FOI Act requirement for a response to be provided within 20 working days.

If you are not satisfied with this response or 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, 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,



DE&S Policy Secretariat

**OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS DURING NUCLEAR MATERIAL CONVOYS
1 January 2013 to July 2016**

Type	Date	Description and Cause	Outcome
Road	May 13	Route diversion due to RTC not involving convoy vehicles further ahead. Minor RTC involving 2 convoy vehicles. On leaving Rest Break at MOD base, Convoy Escort Vehicle in contact with a parked civilian vehicle.	No impact Vehicles assessed, marks to bumper on one vehicle, no impact. Appropriate reporting completed. No impact.
Road	May 13	Convoy Fire Engine released to attend an RTC on convoy route not involving convoy vehicles.	Fire Engine re-joined convoy afterwards. No impact.
Road	Nov 13	Convoy departure delayed due to adverse weather conditions causing Erskine Bridge to be closed.	Route changed due to delayed departure, minor delay.
Road	Jan 14	Adverse weather conditions encountered whilst on route including slush and snow. Convoy Escort Vehicle involved in minor RTC with car at Rest Break at MOD base.	Rolling road block put in place for 21 minutes to ensure convoy and other road users' safety. Minor delay. Appropriate reporting completed. No impact.
Road	Mar 14	Convoy vehicles drove across lightweight aluminium sheet on road, shed from unknown vehicle.	Convoy stopped and vehicles were checked for damage. No damage found. Minor delay.
Road	Jul 14	Route diversion due to Highways Agency reporting 3 miles and increasing of standing traffic on the M5 due to a lubricant spill. Protestor activity forced convoy to stop; one protestor climbed onto TCHD Tractor Unit and glued themselves to the roof. Convoy delayed due to civilian vehicle on fire on Erskine Bridge	Route adjusted. Minor delay. Public Order Team deployed to remove protestor. Convoy delayed by approximately 1 hour. Local police and MDP attended the scene. Delayed onward journey by 30 minutes to allow clearance of vehicle.
Road	Feb 15	Convoy delayed due to road closures on A34 for roadworks.	Minor delay
Road	Sep 15	Route diversion due to an RTC not involving convoy vehicles and subsequent road closure.	1 hour delay reaching Rest Break.
Road	Oct 15	Route changed after convoy informed that due to fatal RTC the previous evening a road had been closed on route.	No impact
Road	Nov 15	Dogs loose on carriageway on route. MDP traffic unit released to control situation, convoy continued.	No impact
Road	Jan 16	Convoy route and Rest Break changed due to major road closure. Convoy departure delayed as programmed for the same time as the end of a local football match with fans leaving ground. Protestor vehicle on route impeding the convoy's progress	Minor delay Minor delay Protestor vehicle stopped by local Police. Minor delay.

**OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS DURING NUCLEAR MATERIAL CONVOYS
1 January 2013 to July 2016**

Road	Feb 16	Convoy Route and Rest Break changed due to roadworks.	No impact
Road	Mar 16	Route diversion due to roadworks. Convoy stopped by protestor walking onto pedestrian crossing and lying down.	No impact Protester escorted from road. Minor delay.
Road	May 16	Convoy delayed on route due to road closures. Convoy delayed on route due to RTC not involving convoy vehicles.	Minor delay. Minor delay.
Road	Jul 16	Convoy route changed due to major road closure.	Minor delay.

**ENGINEERING INCIDENTS DURING DEFENCE NUCLEAR MATERIAL CONVOYS
1 January 2013 to July 2016**

Type	Date	Description and Cause	Outcome
Road	May 13	Cab tilt warning light illuminated on TCHD.	Convoy stopped in layby, vehicle inspected and cleared to proceed. Minor delay
Road	Oct 13	HSV had a battery failure Escort Motorcycle suffered punctured tyre.	New batteries fitted, minor delay. No impact.
Road	Nov 13	Convoy Escort Vehicle warning light illuminated. Convoy Escort Vehicle broke down and pulled on hard shoulder.	Vehicle inspected and declared unserviceable. Personnel transferred to alternative vehicle for remainder of operation. Minor delay. Personnel transferred to alternative vehicle for remainder of operation, convoy recovery vehicle recovered Escort Vehicle to Rest Break. Minor delay.
Road	Mar 14	HSV Temperature gauge indicating 110 degrees.	Vehicle inspected and cleared as safe to continue with procedure in place to monitor temperature. No delay.
Road	Apr 14	Escort Motorcycle developed a slow puncture.	No delay
Road	Nov 14	Whilst at Rest Break Convoy Escort Vehicle brake warning light illuminated. TCHD Cab tilt warning light illuminated. Fire Engine warning system showing an open stowage bin which prevented the handbrake from releasing. TCHD Cab indicated defective interlock.	Vehicle inspected and cleared as safe to continue. Vehicle inspected and faulty switch identified, repaired at the first Rest Break. Minor delay. Vehicle inspected, micro-switch adjusted and defect cleared. Minor delay. Convoy stopped, vehicle inspected and defect repaired. Minor delay.
Road	Jan 15	Cab tilt warning light illuminated on TCHD. Escort Vehicle identified faulty windscreen washer.	Vehicle inspected and faulty switch identified and repaired. Minor delay. Vehicle changed at next Rest Break.
Road	Jul 15	Convoy Escort Vehicle broke down and declared unserviceable.	Convoy continued without this vehicle. No delay. Vehicle then recovered to base.
Road	Jul 15	Convoy Escort Vehicle broke down.	Convoy pulled onto hard shoulder, vehicle inspected and declared unserviceable and was recovered to next Rest Break. Minor delay. Replacement vehicle then used.
Road	Sep 15	TCHD broke down just after leaving site, losing power.	Convoy stopped briefly and vehicle returned to site. Minor delay.

**ENGINEERING INCIDENTS DURING DEFENCE NUCLEAR MATERIAL CONVOYS
1 January 2013 to July 2016**

Road	Dec 15	Whilst at a Rest Break the Fire Engine developed an automatic transmission leak.	Vehicle inspected and repairs carried out. Minor delay.
Road	Jan 16	Convoy Command vehicle developed a clutch problem on route.	Vehicle inspected and exchanged for spare at Rest Break.
Road	May 16	Convoy Support Vehicle suffered equipment electrical failure.	Vehicle inspected and cleared safe to continue. No delay.