



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB  
United Kingdom

Our Ref: FOI2016/00783

Your Ref:

16 February 2016

Dear

Thank you for your email of 19 January 2016 requesting the following information:

1. *"Who now owns these pipelines and are there any wayleaves still in existence?"*
2. *Is permission needed to remove the pipelines, if so who is the right contact?"*
3. *What is currently inside the pipes?"*
4. *Are there any restrictions to building houses or roads over the top of the pipelines?"*
5. *Are there any ground contamination issues (and if so what are they) which might need remediation if*
  - a. *The pipes are dug up to facilitate house building over the top?"*
  - b. *If house building goes ahead over the top of the pipes without digging up the pipelines?"*

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.

1. The pipelines are currently still the responsibility of the MOD however, legal abandonment notices will be served on the owners of the land in the coming weeks that the pipe runs through.
2. Following the service of the abandonment notices the pipes become the responsibility of the landowners and at that time the landowner has the right to remove the pipes.
3. The pipes are left with air in but historically were filled with water and it is therefore possible that water may enter the lines or that they may fill with water over time.
4. Once the pipes are legally abandoned they can be built over however, allowances must be made for the pipes to eventually collapse and therefore the developers often remove the pipe or ensure that there is a cover over them to stop any possible subsidence. Advice should be taken from building consultants on this matter.
5. The pipes are clean and therefore no remediation is anticipated however, should the pipes be lifted, precautions should be taken to ensure that any water which may be within the pipes does not cause issues to the surrounding areas.

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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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