



Our ref: FOI 2016/00767
Your ref:

Date 10 February 2016

Dear

Thank you for your email of 14 January 2016 requesting the following information:

"I was wondering whether I could read two recent reports listed on the Athena Defence Reporter?"

1 - R00031274 Hindsight for Foresight Framework - A Conceptual Exploration Paper Dstl, Portsmouth West (GB) (2014)

2 - R000326F2 DHCSTC Tin 3.136 Big Data Experimentation to Improve Understanding and Decision Making Geographic Reference Datasets Memo"

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 information, in scope of your request is held.

Some of the information you have requested can be found attached, but some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemptions provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) and qualified exemptions provided for at section 22 (Information intended for future publication) and 26 (Defence) of the FOIA and has been redacted or withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Section 22 and 26, are qualified exemptions and are subject to public interest testing which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Question 1.

Section 22 (1) (a) has been applied to this request. The current version was designed to stimulate discussion on the potential of the concept. It is our intention to produce a more developed version which would be more suitable for wider release. The proposed date for publication is September 2016.

Question 2.

Section 26(1)(b) has been applied to some of the information because it contains contextual background which, if released, would prejudice the operational capability and effectiveness of our armed forces. The balance of public interest was found to be in favour of withholding the information given that, overall, the public interest is best served in not releasing such details, in that it would be advantageous to our adversaries and for these reasons I have set the level of prejudice against release of the exempted information at the higher level of "would" rather than "would be likely to".

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the team involved in the paper "R00031274 Hindsight for Foresight Framework - A Conceptual Exploration Paper Dstl, Portsdown West (GB) (2014)" are willing to call you to discuss this topic further and perhaps arrange a visit to Dstl. If you find this will be helpful to your research please contact our Central Enquires on 01980 613121 or email centralenquiries@dstl.gov.uk quoting FOI 2016/00767 with your contact details, email and a telephone number.

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