



Ministry  
of Defence

## Information Systems and Services

Joint Forces Command/ISS HQ, Chief of Staff Secretariat, Bldg 405, MOD Corsham,  
Westwells Road, CORSHAM, SN13 9NR

Our Reference: ISS/COS/2015/00240

Email [REDACTED]

23 January 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Your correspondence dated 6 January 2015 is considered to be a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You requested the following information:

*"I am contacting you to request any information you may hold regarding the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Quarry Operations Centre facility located in the former underground quarries in Corsham, Wiltshire. I believe the facility was commissioned in or around 1979 and closed at some point in the 1990s, and was intended for use by the Royal Air Force as a wartime headquarters facility. I am particularly interested in any information you may hold regarding the prospective or actual activation or use of the facility on either a day-to-day basis or during exercises.*

*I am well aware of the history of the co-located government emergency war HQ facility (Burlington/Turnstile/Chanticleer, etc) as well as the publicly available publications and websites regarding that facility."*

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.

You may be interested to know that currently, the underground area at Corsham is split into two distinct areas; the larger area is predominantly managed as a mine and is known as Burlington Underground Facility and the smaller area is still being used by the MOD and is known as Corsham Underground. While the MOD holds no recorded information relating to the Quarry Operations Centre (QOC), we can confirm that this area of Corsham Underground is now, in the main, in a state of dilapidation and is not used on a day to day basis or for exercises.

You have stated that you are aware that there is already much information on the Internet and in publically available publications so I will not replicate it here. However, the Department has developed an information booklet covering the Corsham underground which you may not have seen and which I have attached for your reference.

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.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

**Information Systems and Services HQ  
Policy Secretariat**